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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 107

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September 30, 2009



**FOR GREAT FOOD SEE OUR
EATING OUT GUIDE INSIDE**

DRIVER IN COURT AFTER TWO KILLED



Picture: IMAGES INTERNATIONAL

TRIBUTES TO THE VICTIMS

Floral tributes have been laid at the spot where two died after five people were run down by a car in Beaver Road early on Sunday. Denise Head, 49, was killed and Brian Moon, 67, died in hospital.

Denise was a mother of three and a grandmother who was looking forward to the birth of her second grandchild at the end of this year. Her family issued a statement which said: "She was full of love, generosity and kindness, and lived life to the full. She was very young at heart, and enjoyed going out with her daughters in Ashford.

"She was well known at the Beaver Road club, where she was a Bingo caller. She had been had been looking forward to celebrating her 50th birthday and had been organising a joint party with her son.

"Denise had worked at Wilkinson's in Ashford and more recently the William Harvey Hospital. She leaves a large family in mourning."

■ BY ED HILL

A MAN appeared in court on Monday charged with two counts of causing death by dangerous driving after a car struck five people in Ashford.

Stefan Stanko 24, from Gravesend, was charged after the deaths of Denise Head, 49, and Brian Moon, 67, who had been walking with a group of friends along Beaver Road just after midnight, in the early hours of Sunday.

Stanko, a Slovakian, was also charged with being over the drink-drive limit, dangerous driving and failing to stop at an accident.



DENISE HEAD

Mrs Head died at the scene and Mr Moon died later at the William Harvey Hospital. Three others were also taken to hospital including a 12-year-old girl Rosie, believed to be a Towers School pupil. She is in a critical but stable condition with head injuries. Two women sustained injuries that are non-life threatening.

The friends were returning home from Ashford Working Men's Club 100 yards away. According to relatives, they had all spent the day together.

Stanko was remanded in custody by Ashford magistrates until a preliminary hearing at Maidstone Crown Court on October 12.

Speaking outside Ashford Magistrates' Court Denise Head's niece, Paige, said: Denise was such a lovely woman. Her family is are all

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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2 The Dave Lee charity golf day returns to Chart Hills golf club this weekend. **Search 'Dave Lee' @ yourkenttv.co.uk**



3 Enjoy a taste of this year's Eurofair and Kent Food and Drink Festival at Canterbury. **Search 'Eurofair' @ yourkenttv.co.uk**

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WHY IT'S HIP TO BE SQUARE



A FASHION show at County Square in Ashford on Saturday allowed shoppers to admire the latest designs, while talented youngsters also enjoyed the chance to shine as their dance groups performed routines while parading trendy street fashion

Of growing importance

■ BY ED HILL

GARDENER'S World presenter Chris Beardshaw was the main attraction at a two-day event for horticultural industry experts.

The seminar, which attracted 200 delegates from across the country, looked at the long-term future of horticulture and how it can respond to climate change.

Talks were presented at Ashford International Hotel and visitors were then given a tour of Palmstead Nurseries, Wye. The nursery has been in the industry for 40 years and grows a million plants a year.

Mr Beardshaw, who is now writing a book about biodiversity, said: "Biodiversity and sustainability are things I've become passionate about."

It's an exciting time for horticulture as we're right at the forefront."

Talks were also given on the need to attract higher calibre recruits to horticulture. Mr Beardshaw told of how a careers teacher tried to persuade him away from gardening.

He said: "At 13, my careers teacher



FROM LEFT: Fergus Garrett, Nick Coslett, Andrew Fisher-Tomlin, Chris Beardshaw, John Langman, Mark Gregory and Anthony Paul all spoke at the horticulture conference

sat me down and pulled out a multiple choice form. I'd worked in a nursery at 11 and wanted to go to Pershore College, ten miles away, to study horticulture, but my careers teacher had never heard of it.

"My career, according to my teacher, was to join the Navy. Even worse, because I wasn't in the remedial stream I couldn't do environmental sciences."

"This was a good secondary school, which saw horticulture as only suitable for those who had nothing intellectual to contribute to the world."

"Is it any wonder we struggle to get the right calibre recruits?"

"Most people have been turned off from the moment they arrive at school, even if they've been enlightened in the early years."

Mark Gregory, who has designed award-winning gardens at the Chelsea Flower Show, said: "We need to sex-up the industry, make it appealing. I visited my son's school and horticulture wasn't on the radar."

John Langman, the owner of Palmstead Nurseries, said: "An event like this is invaluable in terms of meeting people."

"It's good to be able to give something back to an industry that's been very good to us."



For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Kent on Saturday or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at **www.kent.gov.uk/highways**

School recalls 'natural talent' of TV favourite

■ BY ED HILL

X FACTOR favourite Daniel Pearce was booted off a school production of the musical South Pacific but did land an A grade for his music GCSE, teachers have revealed.

He was a pupil at Norton Knatchbull School from 1991-96 and former teachers were delighted to see the 31-year-old – wearing a distinctive, pink stick-on Mohican hairpiece – join the final 25 contestants.

John Hall, head of the expressive arts at the school, said: "He was always an excellent musician here. He was involved in many performances, including National Music Festival performances and the School's Prom in the Royal Albert Hall with the Jazz Band as the drummer, several concerts as singer and drummer, as well as productions of Sweeney Todd and The Beggar's Opera."

Daniel, who grew up in Ashford, was thrown off a production of South Pacific for disobedience, but it was no surprise that he managed to get an A grade for his GCSE in music.

He's no stranger to the world of reality TV. He got his first big break on the one of the early Simon Cowell TV talent shows Popstars: The Rivals.

The show which aired in 2002 pitched a girl group against a boy band to see who could make it first to the Christmas number one spot.

Unfortunately for Daniel, unlike his rivals Girls Aloud, his band One True Voice's time in the charts didn't last long.



But the end of the One True Voice was not the end of Daniel's career in music. He went on to work with some of the industry's most influential artists, such as Guy Chambers who wrote many of Robbie Williams' hits, Jamiroquai's rhythm band, Craig David and Basement Jaxx.

He even had a stint performing as the lead in the West End musical Jailhouse Rock.

But despite all that experience and continued live performing, it has been hard for the singer to make it in the pop industry as a solo artist.

He decided the only way forward was to brave the cameras again and apply for the X Factor.

He said: "I made a big decision to throw myself into the lions' den again. I had walked down all other avenues to try to get a solo deal and seven years on from Popstars thought maybe the powers that be might see fit to give me a second chance."

He has now made it through to the later rounds of the competition after singing Seal's Kiss From A Rose for his first studio audition, but in the early days his talent could also get in the way of his school work.

Mr Hall added: "He was always drumming and tapping. Mrs Preece, head of Religious Studies, remembers telling him off for constantly drumming on the table."



SECOND CHANCE: Daniel Pearce is back on our screens

Direct Brussels service change due to demand, says Eurostar

EUROSTAR has confirmed it is re-organising the timetable of Ashford's direct morning train to Brussels.

The new service will arrive at Ashford at 6.55am instead of 6.25am. The train will also now stop at Calais and Lille on the way. It will now arrive in Brussels at 9.44am.

The changes are due to be introduced in December 13.

A spokesman for Eurostar said: "The changes are due to demand. The previous service left London at 5.57am and this was too early for many customers."

"The advantages are that it gives people in Kent more options for onward travel in Europe especially."

"For example, you will arrive in Lille at 9.07am and can then travel on to somewhere like Bordeaux with a simple change and you get there earlier."

Decisions

"We have to make these decisions to best serve everyone, especially in this economic climate."

Edith Robson who campaigned to have a direct Eurostar service to Brussels reintroduced, said: "I hope this helps people who want to access the rest of France, Switzerland and Italy."

"Unfortunately people from over there still cannot get here in the morning."

"There are no published timetables as yet, so unless someone tells you – and they will only know if they have tried to book – you will not be aware of what is happening."

The company will also be dropping two services to Disneyland Paris during the week, but not during the school holidays.

'We rushed out after we heard'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE still in a state of shock."

The mother-of-three worked at the William Harvey Hospital. Officers have set up a mobile police station at the site of the accident.

Danny Oliphant was in a house that had its front garden wall smashed in the accident.

He said: "If that had been a wooden fence my girlfriend and I would have been killed."

"We rushed out after we heard a massive thud. We tried to give the people on the ground first aid until the ambulance came. It was awful."

Anthony Crozier, who also lives in the house, said: "Cars come too fast round that bend, particularly at night. A barrier needs to be set up to protect homes and pedestrians."

Police want to hear from anyone who witnessed the collision or who may have seen a grey/silver Nissan Primera in the area around the time of the incident.

Call Kent Police on 01622 798538 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



GRIEF: Tributes left at accident site

'Gay pics' anger of barred Sir's sister

THE shocked sister of a teacher suspended after photos of him naked were allegedly found on a gay website says she is angry the pictures have been re-published.

Sam Handley's sister Sophie has seen the pictures in various papers after reports appeared a national newspaper last week.

She said her brother would look to explain the incident. At the door of the family home in Willesborough, Ashford, she said: "We will not be making a comment right now but we will do so at a later stage."

Pictures of PE teacher Mr Handley, 25, were passed between pupils at Harvey Grammar in Folkestone, where he taught, after they were discovered online, according to The Sun.

Mr Handley was unaware the images had been spread among students using Facebook and mobile phones, until the headmaster found out.

The school confirmed that a member of staff had been suspended and sent home following the allegations.

In the pictures, a man calling himself Mike, is seen reclining naked with his legs apart with his hand on his boxer shorts.

The paper said the teacher's online profile described him as "straight" but



SUSPENDED: PE teacher Sam Handley

"not shy about showing off his body".

It also reveals he is new to modelling and works as a physical trainer. Mr Handley told The Sun: "I didn't pose for anything pornographic."

The school confirmed only that a staff member was suspended.

Several comments posted on the Yourshepway website, including from current and past pupils, have expressed support.

Jason Kay from Greenwich, a former HGS pupil, said: "What he has done isn't really anything to get too bothered about but it's probably in his best interests to move on."

A current pupil said: "I know what Mr Handley has done is wrong but he is a very good teacher."

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Illegal workers all washed up in raids

IMMIGRATION officers have arrested several illegal immigrants working as car washers in supermarket car parks in the district.

The move is the latest phase in a crackdown on illegal foreign workers.

Tesco's in Tenterden, and branches of Sainsbury and Tesco in Ashford were hit, and later five workers – three Bulgarians and two Iranians – were arrested at the Hands On carwash at Sainsbury's Park Farm, Folkestone.

This follows a series of coordinated strikes at Hands On sites at Hempstead Valley, Tesco at Courtney Road, Gillingham, and Sainsbury's in Roman Square, Sittingbourne.

The arrests bring the total to 21 people detained.

Playgrounds target for callous thieves

POLICE are on the hunt for £500 worth of large wooden play bricks stolen from a school in St Stephens Walk.

They were taken from locked containers in the playground overnight between September 17-19.

Police say the large number of bricks must have been taken by someone with a wheelbarrow or something similar and they would have had to have made several journeys.

Another play area has also been the victim of crime. A swing worth £100 was stolen from a playground in The Limes the week before.

If you have any information on these thefts contact the police on 01303 289180 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Mayor joins coffee morning at manor

ON Friday coffee mornings in aid of the Macmillan cancer charity were held all around the borough.

Ashford's mayor John Holland attended one event which was organised by the hotel management at the Eastwell Manor Hotel, near Boughton Aluph.

Visitors enjoyed coffee and tea, freshly cooked biscuits and a chance to buy some of the jewellery and other items on sale by stallholders who were donating ten per cent of their takings to the charity.

Sue Cook from the hotel said: "This is the third year that we have staged a coffee morning at the hotel."

"We really enjoy putting on these events that bring in the community and Macmillan is a worthy cause that means a lot to us here at Eastwell Manor."



Police community liaison officer Mick Cronin (left) with Sam Barnard and Skillnet project leader Steve Perry

FILM A HELP TO DISABLED

Adults with learning difficulties should find it easier to report issues to the police – thanks to a new DVD.

The film was launched this week, at a disability hate crime conference to be held at the Ashford International Hotel.

The conference has been organised by Kent County Council and will be opened by the Chief Constable of Kent Michael Fuller.

The film was made by members of the Skillnet Group in Dover, a Community Interest Company which has branches across Kent. They worked on the project with officers from Kent Police.

The project was supported by ITV Fixers, Stagecoach buses and the media department at South Kent College.

The 10-minute film will be shown to adults with learning difficulties across the county.

It shows how incidents can be reported to the police by text message, over the phone, in the street, or at a police station with a friend or relative present if support is needed.

Health care chiefs ready for a winter of flu and cutbacks

■ BY ED HILL

THE Eastern and Coastal Primary Care Trust gathered in Ashford last week to discuss the results of its latest board meeting.

The PCT is responsible for front line health-care in Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone, Dover Thanet and Swale.

One of the most pressing issues facing the Trust is swine flu. Recent figures show it now looks as if the country will face a second wave of the pandemic, but health chiefs say they are fully prepared for the virus.

Ann Sutton, chief executive of the trust, said: "We have prepared for the worst case scenario. It is vital people firstly insure they are registered with a GP so they can get access to treatment."

A vaccine for the virus is still being prepared by medics, but is expected to be passed for use



WAITING: Plans for old Kings Avenue hospital are on track

by the public soon. In the meantime the trust has launched a campaign on buses to re-emphasise the health message of 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'. They also stress that people must make plans to deal with the disease including having a flu friend who can pick up antiviral drugs such as Tamiflu from chemists.

Miss Sutton said: "Although this has not proved dangerous for the majority of people it is a seri-

ous diseases and it will be important groups that are particularly vulnerable are vaccinated."

She also urged people to continue to take up their vaccine for annual winter flu.

In Ashford, the trust said plans to turn the old hospital in Kings Avenue to a community health centre are still on track.

The trust says feedback from local people had been very positive, but it was still awaiting a report from the team working on the project that should be prepared by November.

Colin Tomson, chair of the trust, said: "The outline business case for the centre still has to be completed and we have to keep proving to government there is a need for that facility in Ashford to secure government funding."

Both members of the PCT were keen to say that despite the likely cutbacks on funding from central government, because of the economic crisis health care would not suffer.

Mr Tomson said: "Less money does not mean worse care. You can be clever and squeeze out waste and get a better service."



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Conservation project reveals woodland's historical secrets

■ BY ED HILL

TREES dating back to the time of the first millennium are just some of the discoveries made by a study of the borough's woodland.

The Veteran Tree Project spent 683 days exploring the woods of Ashford and discovered nearly 1,000 trees of specialist importance to environment and nature conservation.

The two-year project was carried out by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) with backing from Ashford council and a £47,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Virginia Hodge project officer said: "Ashford probably has the highest woodland cover of any borough in Kent. Trees are vital features of our environment, culture and natural history.

"We wanted to identify and record the oldest examples and help to save and protect them for future generations."

The project recruited and trained 121 volunteers from across the borough for the survey.

Among the trees they looked at they found



RECORD: Volunteers taking measurements as part of survey

314 veteran trees, 69 ancient trees and another 332 of notable interest.

Ms Hodge said: "Veteran trees are the old trees found in woodland and parkland and the gnarled oaks in the hedgerows. Our ancestors valued them as vital assets. They were part of their subsistence and economy as well as objects of religious and social interest.

"Today, very few trees are maintained and managed for their produce.

"Sadly, many more have been felled to make room for development, intensive

agriculture and forestry or for safety reasons."

Among the veteran trees recorded were Ranters Oak, near Rolvenden. It got its name because in the 19th century 'ranters', travelling Methodist preachers who held their meetings under its branches and Bonnington's Law Day Oak, where courts were held to hear local pleas and where the annual parish meeting used to take place.

In Molash churchyard, yew trees with girths of more than five metres were recorded, including one that was planted more than 1,000 years ago and is 400 years older than the parish church.

Godinton Park had one of the highest concentrations of veteran trees with a total of 93.

The full results of the survey can be found at www.ashford.gov.uk/environment/trees.aspx.

The BTCV is now planning a countywide Kent Heritage Trees Project. To volunteer, phone 01233 666519 or email: v.hodge@btcv.org.uk.

Toys stolen in robbery

A TRAILER full of toys has been taken from a home at the Thorne Estate in Pluckley.

The camping trailer worth £800 was parked at the roadside outside the house and taken on the night of September 18.

It has a spare wheel on the front, a specially designed metal top with a tow bar welded to it and a bike rack attached.

It also had a grey tarpaulin cover.

It was loaded with an assortment of toys, and two children's bicycles."

If you have any information about theft call police on 01303 289180.

Sick to tune of £1,000

ONE lucky resident of Shadoxhurst has won £1,000 on Heart FM's morning quiz competition.

Sally Hodgson managed to answer 10 questions in a minute to win the money.

Presenter James Heming said: "Although Sally was obviously nervous she fired the answers back at me and in the end had plenty of time to spare."

Before answering the questions she was asked how she felt. She said she felt sick and it was her daughter's fault for insisting she phoned the radio station.

Picture ED HILL



TANKS FOR THE MEMORY

You know what they say about old soldiers fading away. Well the same could be said for the machinery that transported them around the battlefield.

This example was spotted on the A20, near Mersham last week, perhaps making its final journey to that great scrap heap in the sky.

If you know anything about this veteran let us know. Our research at has drawn a blank.

Firefighters save puppy from blaze

THE owner of a ten-week-old puppy wants to thank the firefighters who saved her pet from a blazing house.

Keri Dumont's home at East Stour Way, Willesborough near Ashford, was badly damaged by smoke after a fire broke out in the ground floor living room on Friday afternoon, but she has praised the crews who saved her golden retriever named Summer.

When the puppy was rescued she appeared to be dead, but the emergency crews used oxygen to revive her.

Keri said: "The crews brought her out and she was black from soot and lifeless so they worked on her for about half an hour with oxygen. My heart was in my mouth, but then her

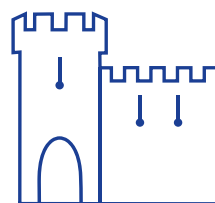
tail wagged and she came round. The firefighters were so calm, they were brilliant."

Two crews from Ashford, two crews from Folkestone and an emergency ladder were sent to the three-storey house after the blaze broke out at 3.30pm, believed to have been caused by a faulty electrical extension lead.

Ashford watch manager James Smart said: "The neighbours raised the alarm because there was no-one home at the time, but the owner then arrived and told us her puppy was in the building.

"Two firefighters wearing breathing apparatus went into the house and found the dog which was unconscious.

"We were very pleased with the rescue."



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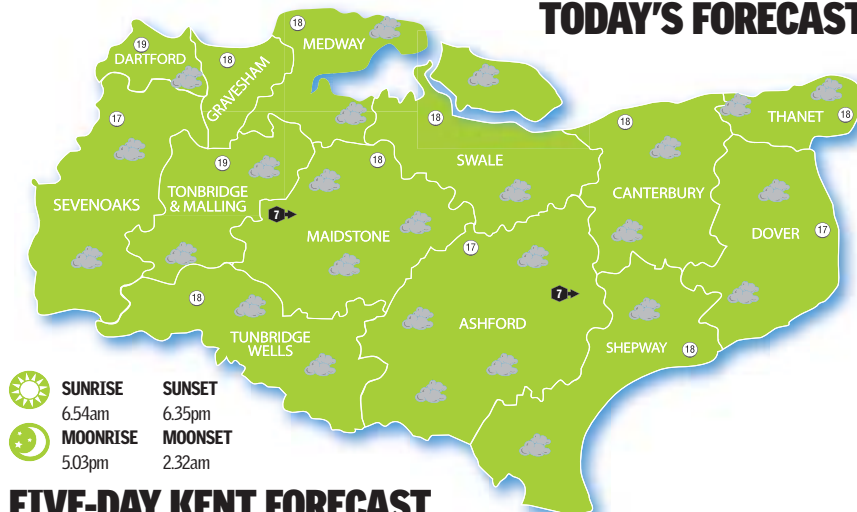
WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:03pm	5.8m
	Sunday	1:35pm	6.0m
Dover	Saturday	11:18am	6.4m
	Sunday	11:46am	6.6m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:22am	7.4m
	Sunday	11:54am	7.7m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:48am	4.9m
	Sunday	12:16pm	5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	12:52pm	5.6m
	Sunday	1:25pm	5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:51pm	5.2m
	Sunday	1:24pm	5.2m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	18°C	Madrid	24°C
Athens	23°C	New York	18°C
Barcelona	24°C	Paris	21°C
Beijing	24°C	Rome	26°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	20°C
Cape Town	18°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	17°C	Tokyo	26°C
Gibraltar	23°C	Vancouver	14°C
Hong Kong	26°C	Warsaw	20°C
Las Palmas	28°C	Wellington	13°C



	SUNRISE	SUNSET
	6.54am	6.35pm
	MOONRISE	MOONSET
	5.03pm	2.32am

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	19°C	18°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	Gravesend	20°C	19°C	17°C	17°C	17°C
Canterbury	18°C	18°C	15°C	16°C	17°C	Maidstone	19°C	19°C	16°C	17°C	17°C
Chatham	18°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C	Ramsgate	18°C	18°C	15°C	16°C	17°C
Dartford	20°C	19°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	Rochester	18°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C
Dover	17°C	17°C	15°C	15°C	17°C	Sevenoaks	17°C	17°C	15°C	15°C	15°C
Faversham	18°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C	Sittingbourne	18°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C
Folkestone	17°C	17°C	15°C	15°C	17°C	Tonbridge	19°C	18°C	16°C	15°C	15°C
Gillingham	18°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C	Tun Wells	19°C	18°C	16°C	15°C	15°C



Jake gets an easier ride from the police

A LITTLE boy from High Halden, who has a muscular disorder is benefiting from a special car seat donated by Kent Police.

Jake Woodcock, aged nearly 21 months, has no muscle tone or control and other disabilities, but has yet to be diagnosed with a specific condition as he continues to undergo tests.

Kent's Chief Constable Michael Fuller donated £200 from the Kent Police Property Fund towards the purchase of a special car seat that will make it easier for him to travel.

The Kent Police Property Fund is made up of the proceeds from the sale of unclaimed lost and stolen property.

Sgt Rachel McNeil from the Tenterden neighbourhood policing team purchased the car seat from Halfords in Ashford, who kindly donated a back seat organiser to keep Jake amused while he is in his new seat.

Jake and his parents Sam Kay and Gavin Woodcock were invited to Ashford Police Station to meet District Commander, Chief Inspector John Frayne and Sergeant Rachel McNeil, who presented the car seat and organiser to the family.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

JOHN HOLLAND

Picture Courtesy Photographic



Q How long have you been connected to the town and how did you get into politics?

A Since 1942, I worked in Ashford Railway Works and at one time there was a large pay dispute and I was persuaded to attend a branch meeting of my Trade Union – The Transport Salaried Staff's Association. I left that meeting with the job of Organising Secretary which was the union's equivalent of a shop steward.

Q How do you feel about becoming the mayor?

A Elated and relieved, mainly because I had to fight for the privilege to be mayor. Whilst I've had to fight for almost everything this in itself makes it more satisfying. In addition to which, in many ways I felt I had earned it since collectively I had served for 40 years as an elected member in Local Government: 12 years on the former Ashford Urban District Council; 22 years on Kingsnorth Parish Council and now six and a half years on Ashford Borough Council.

Q Have you found your work as a councillor rewarding?

A Most rewarding, particularly my direct involvement with the community and their problems, ideas and observations. Whilst committees are fine I feel these are officer led. It is extremely difficult for a councillor to get an item on the agenda for discussion with other members. Whereas with community work most councillors are "hands-on" to help and advise.

Q How do you think the public can engage more with their local politicians?

A Difficult to give a specific response mainly because the public generally tend to let their councillors "get on with it." For example, the exceptions to that seem to be any increase in Council Tax, nearby planning applications which bring out the Nimbyism, arrival of unwelcome nomads and unruly neighbours.

One thing that I feel is lacking in some of Ashford's recently created estates is the lack of community spirit – I have found that so many only know their immediate neighbours and this is possibly because so many have come into Ashford from other parts of Kent and beyond. Whilst speaking to people one frequent remark made (particularly during election times) is "party politics should not enter into local government". Yet, results largely reflect that the majority of voters have voted on party lines.

This was particularly noticeable following this year's county council elections when several prominent, able and active councillors lost their seats and, unfortunately, through no fault of their own, replaced by inexperienced candidates. The point being that people should get to know more about their candidates irrespective of his/her party allegiance. One other thing that has stood out for me is that many residents seem to think that most English mayors have the same executive powers as our continental mayors – which we don't. Oh that were so, my mind boggles!

Q What do you think are the challenges that face Ashford and the surrounding areas?

A In a nutshell, provision of the infrastructure whilst attempting to stay green. I think that our villages are an important part of the Kentish scene and we should do everything to prevent their destruction by allowing them to be swallowed up in the urban sprawl.

Q What would you say to attract people to Ashford?

A Ashford is a growing town and needs involvement and ideas from an injection of new blood. With your help we could achieve in getting a theatre, we might get an integrated bus service for all areas of the borough. Yet on the positive side we do have a High Speed Train service, we are close to the continent, we don't experience or tolerate racism, house prices are favourable compared to other parts of Kent and we have a wonderful and active voluntary sector.

Q What do you do in your spare time?

A What spare time? I enjoy current affairs, socialising, and enjoy photography and philately. Gardening, whilst enjoyable, I find is an opportunity to "think things through" without being influenced by others. Many of my earlier pastimes have slowly disappeared with age such as cycling, swimming, tennis and dancing.

Q & A

Mayor of Ashford, John Holland talks to **Ed Hill** about getting involved with politics, his journey to becoming mayor and why communities should get involved and find out about party candidates

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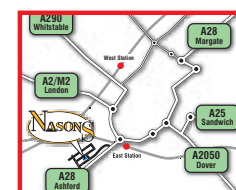


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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Former addict has turned his life around and is helping others trapped by drugs

'If I can keep one person out of prison, it will be worth it'

Drug addiction's link to crimes committed to pay for the habit is well known. Darren Dilloway has served time in prison for drug offences but now works with the police and drug agencies to help people trapped by addiction. As part of our A Safer Kent campaign, taking a behind the scenes look at the work of Kent Police, **TOM BETTS** meets a man who has been on both sides of the system



TURNING your life around when you are fighting a £100-a-day drug habit is no easy task, but Darren Dilloway is living proof that it can be done.

At the peak of his addiction, Darren was living in a nightmare, flitting between prison and hostels, with a spate of convictions, heroin overdoses and near-death experiences under his belt.

He was losing the battle and thinks would be dead by now if he hadn't finally decided to try and escape and salvage something from life.

He said: "At one point I would honestly rather have been in prison than free. You get three meals a day, have no bills to pay and are looked after in way."

Darren, 34, grew up in the Medway towns of Gillingham and Chatham and found himself in trouble with the police in his early teens.

He dabbled with drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine and LSD, before an addiction to speed got the better of him and he started stealing to pay for his habit.

Skipping school, unemployment, hanging around aimlessly and car crime became the norm and he soon found himself inside, where he first took heroin.

"Many people start to do it when they go inside as a 'bird-killer', to pass the time quicker, and when I got out I realised I was addicted," he said.

Years of addiction followed, with crack joining heroin on his daily wish list.

He said: "All that interested me each day was getting money to buy drugs, taking drugs and everything that went with it. I knew the risks but still I'd have tried anything. I was stuck in a vicious circle."

Talking about his crimes, he said: "The worst thing I've done is street robberies and burglaries."

"At one point I wouldn't think anything of breaking into four or five houses a day at the peak of my addiction. It didn't occur to me that there were victims, you don't really think like that."

However, after he last came out of prison, for a garage robbery, Darren decided he had to make a change.



DARREN DILLOWAY: 'I was stuck in a vicious circle'

He said: "It had got to the point where I was sick of it. I decided I could beat it but even now it's an ongoing thing. I know that I could walk out of here and have the drugs I wanted in my

hand in an hour, it's that easy. I have to take each day as it comes."

Making the break with his old life and many old friends and acquaintances was part of the process. "I have had to take myself away from my old life, and isolate myself from a lot of people," he said.

Darren has been clean for 18 months and has carved himself a new life. He has successfully completed a rehabilitation requirement and day programme and is facing the future with a renewed sense of hope.

Now he is volunteering and helping others with their drug problems and has managed to get himself a flat in Gillingham to start a new life.

Support

Eventually he hopes to get a job as a drug support worker, helping young people understand what a life as a drug addict can be like.

He said: "I want my story to be out there as it can show people they can turn their lives around."

"It's hard and you have to be ready and stable in life, but it is possible. If I can keep one person out of prison it will have been worth it."

Chief Superintendent Steve Corbishley, who is in charge of the Medway area for Kent Police, arrested Darren when he was causing trouble and has seen him start to turn his life around.

"I am delighted Darren is helping stop others turning to crime," said Chief Supt Corbishley.

"He can talk to offenders and potential offenders in language they understand, and get across the message that crime really does not pay."

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SmartWater will trap flytippers

■ BY ANNA WHITE

KENT has become the first county in the UK to use a hi-tech forensic marker spray to catch and deter flytippers.

SmartWater is a permanent and invisible marking tool that is mainly used to protect property, but Clean Kent has now become the first agency to use the tool in this innovative way.

The Clean Kent campaign is a multi-agency project led by Kent County Council in partnership with district and borough councils, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Highways Agency and the Environmental Agency.

With help from former BBC TV Watchdog presenter Nicky Campbell, who now presents the breakfast show on Radio 5, the agencies demonstrated at Maidstone Studios how SmartWater will play a crucial part in the ongoing campaign to crack down on flytipping in Kent.

Residents will be able to spray SmartWater on household waste before it is disposed of. If it is then found illegally dumped, officers can detect SmartWater using ultraviolet light and trace it back to the trader responsible.

The invisible coding spray will remain on any object permanently, even if it is burnt, making it possible to trace the waste back to



SMART MOVE: (From left) Clean Kent co-ordinator Melanie Price, Nicky Campbell, Kent Fire and Rescue Service assistant director of community safety Steve Griffiths, and SmartWater chief executive Phil Cleary

flytippers trying to cover their tracks.

Clean Kent co-ordinator at KCC, Melanie Price, said: "SmartWater has been used throughout the country, and globally, to mark property, but we have been innovative enough to come up with this unique way of using it to deter flytipping."

"Because it is invisible there is no way a trader could know if they are dumping unmarked waste illegally or marked waste. We are hoping the risk will deter them and reduce flytipping in Kent."

SmartWater chief executive Phil Cleary, whose brother invented the product, said: "The



BRIGHT IDEA: SmartWater shows up under UV light

use of SmartWater will help reinforce the message to criminals that Kent is now a no-go zone for flytippers. Through SmartWater, Clean Kent will have the technology to pursue convictions and will actively do so.

"SmartWater maintains a 100 per cent conviction rate when used as evidence in court, which will send a strong message to anyone considering flytipping."

The scheme is being piloted in the Swale and Sevenoaks areas first, before it is rolled out to the rest of Kent.

People found guilty of fly-tipping can face prison sentences of up to five years or a maximum fine of £50,000.

Railway offer 'staycationers' ride to rescue

TOURISM bosses have revealed a 14 per cent increase in the number of visitors to the Garden of England so far this year.

Visit Kent said families had been flocking to attractions such as Leeds Castle and Howletts and Port Lympne wild animal parks after a summer promotion in conjunction with train company Southeastern.

Figures from the tourism partnership show that 2,534,491 visitors came to Kent between January and July this year, compared with 2,227,083 in 2008.

The 2FOR1 promotion, which is continuing until March 2010, is available at more than 70 attractions, hotels and restaurants across Kent. Visitors have to present a valid rail ticket from anywhere in Southeastern's network along with a voucher downloaded from the campaign's website or from promotional brochures at railway stations.

More than 3,000 vouchers have been downloaded and it is hoped at least 5,000 will be redeemed before the end of the promotion.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive

of Visit Kent, said: "People are looking for value for money and a good deal and this offer represents that. They are top attractions in Kent – restaurants, hotels, places to visit – so it's a very compelling offer. We are convinced this campaign has made a contribution to the positive picture."

The top three downloads include Leeds Castle, Howletts and Port Lympne and Dover Castle. For more information and a full list of the attractions and destinations included in the offer, go to www.visitkentbytrain.co.uk.



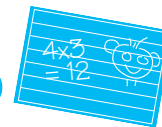
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BREAK TIME

Anyone for tennis?



CHEQUE IT OUT: School contest raised £8,500

A TENNIS tournament at Benenden School has raised thousands of pounds for local and national charities.

More than 1,000 players and spectators attended this year's event, including several from France and one from Columbia in South America.

A record £8,500 raised for charities, including the Teenage Cancer Trust, Demelza House and the Kent Air Ambulance. The event was sponsored by Appledore Developments.

Yvette Brotherton, sales and marketing director, said: "We are proud to have once again shown our support for this highly regarded tournament."

"It is a great day out for the family and there is always a wonderful atmosphere as people from all parts of Kent unite for this sociable event."

Academy-in-waiting

CHRIST Church School held open days last week for prospective parents of year six pupils to get a look at its facilities. From September, 2010, the Church of England school will be transformed into an independent academy, receiving money directly from Government for its funding, rather than the LEA.

Adversity cannot hold back spirit of youth

■ BY ED HILL

THE Spirit of Try Angle Awards ceremony for young achievers took place at the Ashford International Hotel.

The awards, now in their 15th year, celebrate exceptional young people from Kent who have been recognised in their part of the county.

In Ashford, the winners of the KCC-backed awards were James Arney and Ricky-James Ralph, both 15.

James won his award for achievements in music. In the past, he had found it difficult to learn and had low self-confidence, but this has changed through his passion for music.

He found a talent for playing the guitar. Now he has built on his skills and has started drumming, composing and recording music.

The list of his achievements include taking part in school concerts and school assemblies, composing music for a song that was used by the school in anti-bullying week and playing at a charity event.

He hopes to start a BTEC in music in year ten. Ricky was nominated for bravery by his parish council. For 15 years he has undergone treatment for problems with his leg and has sometimes been in a wheelchair.

Despite setbacks along the way, he has been determined to continue going to school, even when he was barely able to move.



WELL DONE: Ricky-James Ralph, left, and James Arney with their Try Angle Awards at Ashford International Hotel

More than 30 young people were presented with a trophies for being countywide category winners.

Max Campbell, 14, from Edenbridge was named overall winner for his efforts in Citizenship. He helped to get a new skate park built in his community.

Cllr Mike Hill, KCC cabinet member for communities, said: "Each year, the Try Angle Awards bring together young people with

incredible stories to tell and their achievements are truly inspirational. It's crucial that we recognise and pay tribute to the youngsters in Kent who work so hard, sometimes in the face of adversity, and I congratulate everyone who has received an award at both district and countywide level."

During the ceremony, there were performances from young people, including an Irish dancing troupe and break-dancers

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yourashfordblogger

Gary Wright asks why waste time considering a law that will always blame drivers in collisions with bicycles?



Surely cyclists are the worst example of green arrogance

THE cyclist may just be the best example yet of that self-righteous arrogance that has spoiled Britain over the past 20 years.

I tended to believe that the militant anti-smoker represented all that was worst about this country.

And be clear here, I mean the irritating, supercilious ANTI-smoker as opposed to the far less dangerous NON-smoker, who accepts that people have different ways to live their lives and that compromise is one of the best attributes a person can possess.

That holier-than-thou mentality runs so deep in these people that I have discovered over the years that the ANTI-smoker normally has a string of other unreasonable intolerances that mean he, or she, is not a person with whom I will choose to spend my free time.

They represent the worst of PC Britain and those people like fundamental Christians (well fundamental anyone really) who simply

believe they are right because it's too difficult to reconsider or admit you're wrong (anyone who took huge, spiteful delight in the law against smoking in public places).

But the militant bicyclist has come up on the outside and is now proving to be the most dangerous green Nazi in existence.

We have spent millions of pounds in local taxes and Lotto grants to build them a network of cycle paths across our fair isle.

But that's not good enough. Now Cycling England – an agency we fund through the Transport Department – wants the civil law to be changed so that drivers are automatically liable in the event of a crash. No matter who is at fault.

So the Lycra Louts – who ride like they own the road, ignoring traffic lights and using the pavement when it suits them, especially in big cities – will have even less reason to be careful.

They'll be secure in the knowledge that when they do smash head-on into a truck as they go the wrong way down a one-way street (which is another change in the law being con-

sidered), while they are recovering in hospital, at my expense, they will also know that compensation will be on its way from Mr Truck driver who is automatically to blame.

Surely this is madness.

Cyclists are at best a bunch of well-meaning folk who think that a mode of transport invented in the 19th century has a place on our busy 21st century roads. Incorrect.

At worst they are hoodlums who disregard the Highway Code believing they have the moral high ground because they are not polluting our planet.

Witness the ridiculous anger they've shown over Boris Johnson's sensible plan to open bus lanes to commuters on scooters and motorcycles. Absolute common sense and yet they have protested with an anger not seen since the last anti-foxhunt protest outside Parliament.

When cyclists start paying road tax (or VED for the picky) and have to pay insurance, then they deserve a voice, until then, ignore them and tell them to use the cycle lanes we have built for them.

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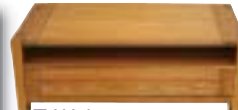
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yourcompetition

Cuisinart



WIN! a slow cooker and hamper

AS British summer time comes to an end and the temperature plummets, it seems that the only perk we have to look forward to is

an extra hour in bed.

In a bid to help banish these winter blues, Maille, France's leading mustard producer, and quality cookware specialists – Cuisinart, have teamed

up to offer Yourlocal readers a delicious treat to brighten up those gloomy evenings.

One lucky reader has the chance to win a premium 6.5 Litre Cuisinart Cook & Hold Slow Cooker and a luxury hamper, which includes the complete range of Maille mustards and sauces. Three runners up will also win a Maille hamper packed full of fantastic goodies.

Cuisinart Cook & Hold Slow Cookers, which have a five year guarantee, are perfect for making a variety of delicious winter warmer meals such as stews and pot roasts. Prepare your main dish in the morning and return home from a hard day's work to a delicious meal. What's more, winning readers can have fun with the entire Maille range whatever they may be cooking – just a few spoons of Maille Dijon Mustard really adds a fantastic depth of flavour to many dishes and recipes.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Cuisinart Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is October 10, 2009.

Question: Who is France's leading mustard producer?

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TALK TIME

MEL HUGHES

The fundraiser for Kent Play Clubs in Ashford talks about her work and the forthcoming event at Godinton House.



Can you tell us about Kent Play Clubs? How did you get involved?

Kent Play Clubs is a registered children's charity that enables communities to provide affordable and enjoyable after school clubs and holiday schemes for 4-12-year-olds. Our aim is to provide a practical resource for parents, an action-packed, fun and safe setting for children and a resource that benefits the whole community by offering and enabling employment and training.

We are committed to quality and constantly seek funding to make our clubs as enjoyable as possible for the children. For example, we provide specialised sports and dance coaching through BBC Children in Need funding and recently secured funding for a visiting chef to our after school clubs to promote healthy eating.

I have been involved in fundraising here for four years and it is the tremendous feedback from children and parents alike that makes it so rewarding.

We currently support 10 Ofsted-registered after school clubs in Ashford and surrounding villages. Their full contact details are at www.kentplayclubs.org.uk.

What are you going to be doing at Godinton House? How can people join in?

On Saturday, October 17, Kent Play Clubs is offering a fun outing for all the family within the beautiful parkland of Godinton House. There will be a choice of a 2km bear hunt or a 5km ramble between 10am and noon. All proceeds go to Kent Play Clubs. For more details about sponsorship, entry fees and other activities call 01233 713813 or email info@kentplayclubs.org.uk.

YOUR LETTERS

This week's blog, see page 14, was posted on www.yourashford.co.uk last week. Angry cyclists from all over Britain responded. Here are a selection of the comments so far.

You're moaning about the minority

You should realise that bikes emit zero emissions and hence don't pay "road tax" which of course is no longer applicable in any case.

Car drivers enjoy the same benefits by the way, depending on what emissions they emit. Like me, you can choose to pay full whack for your gas guzzler, or you can buy a G Wiz and pay nothing (I think).

I do agree there are some bike riders who break the law, jump red lights, are inconsiderate, and do bring the majority into disrepute, but in that example you can substitute just about any group in the same way, car drivers, taxi drivers, bus drivers, pedestrians, mobility scooter users etc.

I believe in the case of cyclists its very much the minority, and your comments seem to be centred on this minority.

Dex, by email

I won't be a danger to the pedestrians

This type of hate-inspired rant is very thing that is wrong with this country, being both narrow minded and selfish.

Because I am riding a bike, I



pay no taxes? I should stick to cycle paths or shared paths – there are none on my commute and as I average above 20mph most of the time, I'd like to stay well away from pedestrians – thank you very much!

Jim, by email

Commuting cyclists are usually insured

If you had read the Highway Code (something you accuse cyclists of ignoring) you would know that it is perfectly acceptable to for cyclists to ignore the cycle paths.

They are more dangerous and less convenient than using the roads, and very often badly maintained and blocked by parked cars. If you are not prepared to share the road with other traffic, perhaps you shouldn't be driving.

PS I have insurance, as do many cyclists, either through cycling organisations or as part of home insurance cover. For

comparison, there are more uninsured drivers in the UK than there are cycle commuters.

Kas, by email

Would he drive his bike to the path?

I do hope Mr Wright doesn't own a bike. It must frustrate him terribly to have to put it in his car, then drive to the nearest cycle lane, then have his refreshing, non-polluting, hurting nobody spot of exercise, then put it back in the car and drive home again.

Danny Smith, by email

There will always be idiots out there

So you've witnessed bad behaviour by cyclists, and drivers. I've witnessed them too, and also plenty by motorcyclists. And pedestrians.

If people commuted by boat

there'd be some idiot cutting up the other boats and double parking in the harbour. It's just not news. To imply that this attitude extends to all, or a majority, or even a significant minority, of cyclists is errant nonsense.

I choose to cycle because it's the most effective way to cover the three miles to the office. I don't hate car drivers or motorcyclists as a result. I hate that some of them do things which put me in danger, and I hate that columns like yours serve only to fuel the animosity.

Dave Atkinson, by email

They should pay for roads upkeep

Your comments regarding cyclists are in my experience quite true, many times have I seen cyclists riding through red lights or the wrong way down a one way street and even on pavements – terrorising pedestrians.

I do think they justify it to themselves in some way and so perhaps by getting them to contribute financially to the upkeep of roads etc they might take the laws that car drivers and motorcyclists abide by, seriously.

I'm not anti-cyclists by the way and I'm not anti smokers – they should be able to enjoy what they do in the same way drinkers can.

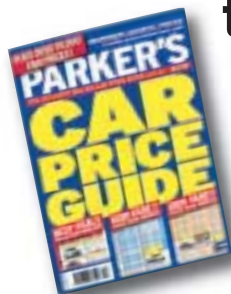
Clare Read, by email

Let's look at the bigger picture

As the debate on assisted suicide moves on let's not forget Pamela Weston, the latest Briton to take her life at Dignitas. Her main

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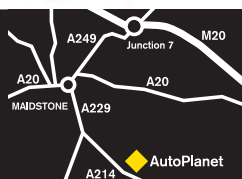
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aim in telling her story was not to promote assisted suicide but to "push the Government hard on medical research into ME."

Until this happens, people like Miss Weston will continue to wait in vain for a scientific explanation of what causes this debilitating disease. This will be fundamental to developing better treatments and ultimately a cure.

Sir Peter Spencer
Chief executive, Action for ME

No price too high to clean up rivers

The Environment Agency has found that only five out of 6,114 rivers it has surveyed in the UK are clean.

None of the five which meet agreed common European standards are in Kent or Medway.

The Environment Agency has indicated that the River Stour estuary and Pegwell Bay, plus the Stour upstream to above Ashford, is amongst the lowest two per cent of river sections for river water quality.

At times of low rainfall up to 70 per cent of the water in the mid Stour between Ashford and Canterbury has passed through the Ashford sewage plant. Chemicals such as oestrogen are not filtered

out, and they severely affect wildlife. Similarly, the River Medway has badly polluted stretches.

The Government is committed to meeting the target of 95 per cent of rivers meeting agreed European "good" or "very good" standards by 2015, but it will have its work cut out to achieve this.

If we don't clean up the rivers, a variety of species will be damaged, or will not return to our rivers. This would include species such as the otter, kingfishers and water voles.

Kent County Council needs to adjust the Kent Environment Strategy and use available resources to assist in the clean-up of our rivers. The cost of meeting standards for England and Wales altogether would be about £9 billion. This is a price we should pay to conserve mammal, bird and fish species for the future.

Dr Geoff Meaden
Kent Green Party

Give us a big hand by having a clear out

The race is on to join British Heart Foundation (BHF) shops in Kent, and take part in the nation's biggest ever stock appeal – The BIG Donation and help fight heart dis-

ease, the UK's biggest killer.

The nation's heart charity has called on the people in Kent to donate good quality items to help reach its target, but with just days left until the end of the appeal, more are still needed.

The BHF is aiming to achieve £7 million worth of donations UK-wide. That is equivalent to 350,000 bags of good quality stock to be taken into BHF shops or participating Argos, Homebase or Lidl stores across the country.

We have had fantastic support from people but we still have a long way to go in just a few days. We don't just want to meet our target, we want people to have an autumn clear out and help us smash our goal. Every bag of unwanted items really can save lives.

In a show of support – BIG celebrities such as Jonathan Ross, Danni Minogue, Kelly Osbourne and Michelle Heaton have also donated one of their own prized possessions.

But everyone can help by donating good quality clothing, accessories, music, DVDs, books, toys and bric-a-brac. Be a part of The Big Donation by filling up a bag or give unwanted furniture or electrical items a new home by arranging a free collection at bhf.org.uk/bigdonation.

Lynda Middleton,
Area manager for Kent BHF Shops



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Picturesque pub and top-notch grub

■ The George Hotel, Lydd

THE George Hotel is situated on the High Street in picturesque Lydd and is a family-run business that consists of two bars, nine bedrooms full of character, a weather decked garden for dining out of doors and a log fire restaurant.

The menu ranges from vegetarian dishes, to low calorie foods and fish-based meals with the majority made up from local produce.

Tim Crompton, and his wife Ann who have been running it for almost eight years, said: "We think it is important to keep traditional pub grub alive but we also cater for those who want something a bit different. For



instance we serve very tasty and popular beef and vegetarian lasagnes."

The excellent team at The George ensure a warm welcome for everyone and the hotel is currently operating a loyalty scheme – four stamps on the card and diners obtain a fifth main course free.

The hotel is unique in that it

serves food all day and every day between 12 noon and 9pm – or 8pm on Sundays – and Tim and Ann say they feel the area deserves the option of tasty food when required by diners.

Current favourite dishes include black pudding and seared scallops, chicken, stilton and bacon wrap, mushroom, brie and Cranberry Wellington and

Italian chicken with peppers and tagliatelle.

The locally produced sausage and mash is also a favourite and has won several awards.

The hotel is open 11am – 11pm Monday to Thursday, 11am – midnight on Friday and Saturday and 12midday until 11pm on Sundays.

Food is served from 12 noon until 9pm Monday to Saturday and 12 noon until 8pm on Sundays.

There is a great ambience and atmosphere throughout the hotel which maintains its reputation as one of the top places to eat, drink and stay on Romney Marsh.

Close to a number of tourist attractions and some of the finest natural countryside in the south of England the George Hotel is a prime venue for those looking for quality dining in a fine ambience at the right price. George Hotel, 11 High Street, Lydd TN29 9AJ. Telephone 01797 321710. www.thegeorgelydd.com.

CHEF RECOMMENDS

Walnut Tree

Starter: mixed prawn platter. Main course: chicken breast stuffed with boursin cheese, wrapped in bacon with a creamy peppercorn sauce, with seasonal vegetables and potatoes. Dessert: lemon meringue pie. Telephone: 01233 720298.

Martin's

Starter: a scallop shell filled with fresh crab, avocado topped with cheddar cheese an grilled. Main course: prime Scotch fillet steak cooked in brandy, worcester sauce, mushrooms and cream. Dessert: homemade Mars bar cake. Telephone: 01227 750304.

Rose and Crown

Starter: mussels cooked in white wine, garlic, onion and celery served with crusty bread. Main course: t-bone steak served with mushrooms, grilled tomatoes, onion rings, salad and chips. Dessert: homemade bread and butter pudding. Telephone: 01227 709265.

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Sam Mendes' film paints a vivid portrait of contemporary America and its foibles, as expectant parents leave behind their blissful back-woods home for the sake of their imminent child's prospects.

ADVENTURELAND (15)



In the summer of 1987, a college graduate takes a part-time job in a theme park and sets himself up for heartbreak when he falls for a co-worker who is having a secret affair with the park's handyman.

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (18)



Quentin Tarantino's war opus is a blood-soaked fairytale set in Nazi-occupied France, divided into five hefty chapters. He splices genres to dizzying effect across its two-and-a-half hours.

The humble origin of a highly evolved career

■ BY SUSAN GRIFFIN

PAUL Bettany has been wowing theatre-goers and independent movie fans for years, but it took his buttock-baring turn as Chaucer in *A Knight's Tale* for Hollywood big-wigs to sit up and take notice.

He now cites roles in *The Da Vinci Code* and Oscar-winning movies *A Beautiful Mind*, where he met his wife Jennifer Connelly, and *Master And Commander* among his impressive resume. But his latest role has proved his most daunting yet.

In *Creation*, Bettany plays the revolutionary scientist Charles Darwin, author of arguably the most explosive book in history, *On the Origin of Species*.

Published 150 years ago, the book was a culmination of more than 20 years of research inspired by his travels as a young man.

In the work, he revealed a scientific explanation for the diversity of species, including the evolution of man, and forever changed the way we view our place in the world.

Creation is based upon *Annie's Box*, a book written by Darwin's great-great grandson, Randal Keynes.

In it, we see Darwin as a young and vibrant family man – albeit one whose mental and physical health gradually buckles under the weight of guilt and grief for a lost child, his beloved ten-year-old daughter, Annie.

A man torn between his love for his deeply religious wife and his own growing belief in a world where God has no place, Darwin even wrote that by effectively 'killing' God he felt like he was "confessing a murder".

So there's much to talk about as I prepare to interview the 38-year-old actor. Opening a



GHOST: Paul Bettany shadowed Charles Darwin's actual footsteps during the filming at Down House

door, I step into a grand but dimly-lit room. There is shelf upon shelf of books but no sign of Mr Bettany, so I take a seat and only then do I notice the soles of two feet hanging off the end of a line of chairs.

"Um... Paul," the PR says gently and a rather tired looking Bettany pops his head up.

It turns out Bettany is feeling rather poorly but, ever the professional, he takes his seat under the spotlight and ploughs on.

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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His blue eyes may look slightly glassy but even in this exhausted state, Bettany still makes a striking figure. Tall and slim, his hair shaved for a film role but it only maximises his razor-sharp cheekbones.

"Darwin's a bit of a hero of mine. I think he was an extraordinarily brave human being," he says in quiet but well-spoken words. "I like the idea of a person who is a social conservative having this revolutionary idea."

He felt particularly close to his character while filming at Darwin's actual home, Down House in Kent: "It was beautiful. I am not particularly sentimental but I was really moved. I found it extraordinary to walk that walk where a great deal of his thinking was done. You felt a bit like a ghost for a second."

CREATION
Certificate 15



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yourashfordmusic

US band set to make odd name for themselves in UK



NAME OF THE GAME: LA-based rock band Upsilon Acrux will be playing with Honey Ride Me a Goat and The Laze at the Tap 'n' Tin, Chatham, as part of the European tour

■ BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

UNWRITTEN rule of rock number 117; all instrumental bands must have an absurdly obscure name.

Notable non-lyric outfits include Ozric Tentacles, Mogwai – who took their moniker from the Cantonese for ghost or devil – and more recently 65daysofstatic.

Continuing the trend are Los Angeles rockers Upsilon Acrux, who play at the Tap 'n' Tin, Chatham, tomorrow night.

The avant-garde five-piece's Kent gig will also be their first in the UK and comes halfway through their debut European tour.

With the band rumoured to make this their first and last tour outside the US, a

TAP 'N' TIN LINE-UP

Upsilon Acrux, The Laze and Honey Ride Me a Goat

spokesman for promoter Kitchen Dweller Records urged post-punk fans to grab the opportunity to see them live.

He said: "They are one of the most creative and original of the great post-punk, avant-garde rock bands today and are regulars of the now legendary Smell venue in LA.

Legendary

"They've just released their sixth album of explosive, intense and beautiful instrumental rock on the Cuneiform record label.

"They continue to develop their uncompro-

mising sound and intense live shows with such acts as The Boredoms, Mission of Burma, The Locust, Don Caballero, Dillinger Escape Plan, Hella and Lightning Bolt.

"Don't miss this rare opportunity to see one of Upsilon Acrux's legendary live performances in the UK."

Support on the night comes from established Kent instrumentalists Honey Ride Me a Goat and Merseyside-based rockers The Laze.

A special commemorative split vinyl record, featuring Upsilon Acrux and Honey Ride Me a Goat, containing new material from both bands will be available on the night.

The first five people who send an email to mail@kitchendweller.com will also receive free tickets to the show.

Doors open at 8pm, with the first band set to take to the stage an hour later. Entry costs £3.

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SUMMER SOUNDS: The best of Antfest 2009, at The Command House, Chatham



HEAVYWEIGHTS: Rockers 3lbs Down play at The Beacon Court, Gillingham



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

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- 2 Shychlo And The Boys – 24/10 Canterbury, Tales Gillingham
- 3 CWB – 25/10 The World Bar, Margate
- 4 Backburner – 30/10 The Dublin Man O'War, Dover
- 5 The Suspects – 30/10 The Britannia, Margate

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The 17th Tenterden Folk Festival takes place this weekend with something to entertain everyone

FROM Morris dance to the music of the Appalachian Mountains, there is plenty going on at the Tenterden Folk Festival.

Now in its 17th year, the festival offers a busy programme of concerts, workshops, dance displays and fairs which are sure to keep folk fans of all ages entertained.

The public events get under way on Friday night with an English barn dance in the Moulton Hall, with music from Geckoes, pictured below inset, and the festival continues with

a tempting array of activities and entertainment.

Visitors can even enjoy performances on the move as dance sides, musicians and singers visit the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

This year's highlights include two special shows featuring regional folk songs and music.

The music of Kent is celebrated on Saturday in Oyster Girls and Hovelling Boys, which features performances by local musicians such as Brian Peters, main picture below, Marian Button, Pete Castle, Bob Kenward and Roger Resch, Dave Mason, The Millen Family and Andy

Turner. The show is named after a recently released CD, the third volume in a series of albums of songs from the county.

During the show, the audience will hear unaccompanied ballads, songs sung with a guitar or accordion accompaniment, a Kentish poem and tunes on the concertina.

Although many of the acts are well-known names on the local folk scene, the audience will also meet Dave Mason, a young poet from Tenterden who wrote The Kentish Woman's Way. There will also be a performance by Betherdsen farming clan The Millen Family, who still cherish a long-standing singing tradition.

At the end of the show, which takes place in the Saddlery at the side of the White Lion at 6pm, all the artists will join in a rendition of The Whitstable May Song.

The second special concert will be held in the Evans Bar of the Tenterden Club at 1.30pm on Sunday, when Wiltshire songs will be performed in Sing the Year Round.

Tinkers Bag will be providing the entertainment, singing the songs that have been enjoyed at concerts and folk clubs in Wiltshire and beyond.

With their vast array of instruments, from melodeons and bouzouki to kazoo and the shaky egg, the group of friends draw on their established repertoire and also present some brand new songs.

These are just a few of the numerous concerts and events on offer, so pick up a programme or visit the website at www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk to browse the full festival listings.

TENTERDEN FOLK FESTIVAL

Friday, October 2 to Sunday, October 4



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TONEDOFF AND CREAM

Saturday, October 3
Arena Nightclub, Ashford

MUSIC heavyweights such as Tall Paul (pictured) and Brandon Block will descend on Ashford this weekend for a night to remember.

Rain will host the inaugural event by Tonedoff, a collaboration between three Kent promoters and businessmen which aims to bring the best in dance events to the county. For their debut, they have joined forces with the mighty Cream to create an incredible night of house music.

Following a staggering £1 million sound and lighting upgrade, the club will welcome huge names such as Seb Fontaine, K-Klass and Nick Rafferty. Tonedoff also supports local talent and upcoming DJ Rob Cockerton from Maidstone who will hit



the decks along with Tonedoff's resident jocks.

The new venture is the brainchild of ex-HD Promotions partner Mark Dickson, of Gatecrasher, Hed Kandi and Fierce Angel fame; ex-HeadRoc Honcho, High Society and Bubble mastermind Mick Mcleavy and Jon Jeffery, a successful

businessman in the security industry.

With three follow-up events already in the pipeline, clubbers can look forward to what looks like being a huge addition to the Kent dance scene. Tickets cost £22.50/£16.50. Visit www.tonedoff.co.uk for more information.

EILEN JEWELL

Monday, October 5
The Loft, Maidstone

ANOTHER exciting American artist makes their Maidstone debut next week, courtesy of Maverick.

The live showcases continue to attract some of the biggest names in folk, rock, country, Americana and roots music. Eilen Jewell is a Boston-based artist whose first two albums soon established her as one of the rising stars of a new generation of roots musicians.

With her third album, *Sea of Tears*, her elegant songwriting has encapsulated the sounds of vintage R&B, Midwestern garage rock, Chicago blues and early rock and rockabilly. These diverse influences have not excluded the haunting, folk-inspired purity that has made her an artist to watch ever since her debut release in 2006.



California singer-songwriter Lisa O'Kane will also be appearing, performing the candid songs that explore her life, heart and inner soul. Renowned for her emotionally honest performances, she wrote her third album, *It*

Don't Hurt, while her personal life was in turmoil and her connection to the songs is evident when she sings.

The concert starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £12 in advance on 01622 744481 or £14 on the door.

JOE BROWN

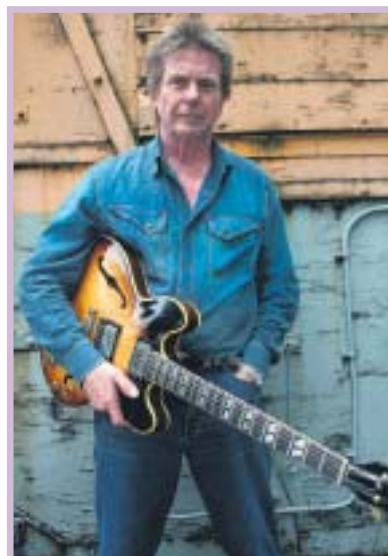
Thursday, October 1
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

AFTER 50 years in the business, Joe Brown is still one of the country's most enduring and acclaimed musicians.

To mark his half-century as an entertainer, Brown embarked on a tour which sold out at every venue including London's Royal Albert Hall. Now he visits Shepway with his long-serving band, The Bruvvers and son Pete to perform the great songs in a diverse array of genres which have given him such popularity and longevity. From rockabilly, country and electric rock 'n' roll to folk and gospel, the songs are linked by Brown's unique style and humour.

After beginning his career as a live performer, Brown became a recording star in the 60s. His skiffle band, originally called The Spacemen, was renamed Joe Brown and The Bruvvers. Since then his career has included roles in films, pantomimes and stage musicals and presenting jobs on television. He has appeared on *Later...* With Jools Holland and at the Glastonbury Festival and become a regular Radio 2 contributor.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets



cost £21/£19. Book online at www.leascliffhall.org.uk or call the box office on 0844 847 1776.

ASHFORD LEISURE

Chamber Orchestra string together concert

THE Crowther Chamber Series of concerts continues this weekend with the Festival Chamber Orchestra.

The programme will include works by Mozart, Bach, Albinoni, Warlock and Piazzola. The concert takes place at Wye Church, 7.30pm, Saturday. Tickets are £12/£7/£4 from Crowthers of Canterbury on 01227 763965 or at www.crowthersofcanterbury.co.uk.

A Fusion of a great night with good music

FOR an evening of soft rock and classic pop played live, go along to the next gig by Kent band Fusion.

The four-piece, female-fronted band caters for all tastes and puts its own mark on great songs. Hear demo tracks and find out more on the website www.fusion-band.co.uk.

Fusion will be appearing at The Star in East Hill, Ashford, on Friday.

Eight-piece band will liven up the Woolpack

TOES will be tapping to big tunes when the Interceptors perform at a pub near Ashford.

The eight-piece live show band boasts a line-up of professional musicians who play a wide variety of great tracks. Hear them online at www.interceptors.com.

Interceptors will be playing at the Woolpack Inn in Church Road, Smeeth, on Saturday. Call the pub on 01303 812196.

Lyricists should tune in to this competition

ASPIRING songwriters could win a Gibson Les Paul guitar by giving their take on a number one hit.

Simply re-write the lyrics to Natasha Bedingfield's *These Words* to be in with a chance of winning the guitar, a VIP tour of the Gibson showroom in London and four tickets to the British Music Experience at the O2. Competition closes November 13. Enter at www.puresolo.com/soundsurf09.

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GEORGE AT ASDA

Belted jersey jacket, price £30



DOROTHY PERKINS

Wool cape, price £70

ASHFORD SHOPPING

You'll be seeing things in this children's book

A YOUNG girl must face up to a terrifying apparition in the magical children's book, *Sylvie and the Songman*.

Written by Kent author Tim Binding, the story is an exciting adventure that will captivate readers aged from nine to 14. Released in hardback last year, the beautifully illustrated novel will be available in paperback from tomorrow.

Sylvie and the Songman is published by Corgi Children's and priced at £6.99.

Ozzy Osbourne will be rocking Bluewater

THE Prince of Darkness visits Bluewater this weekend to sign copies of his new autobiography, *I Am Ozzy*.

An unmistakable rock star and television personality, Ozzy Osbourne has lived an extraordinary life and his story should make remarkable reading. He will be making an appearance at Waterstone's at 1pm on Saturday.

I Am Ozzy, priced at £20, is published by Sphere on tomorrow. For more details about the event call 01322 624831.

Wine master class will be a grape evening

WINE enthusiasts can enjoy some top tipples at a sparkling wine master class in Tunbridge Wells.

Hosted by Spanish sparkling winemaker Codorníu, the event will be led by flamboyant TV wine expert, Joe Wadsack. Participants can taste seven Codorníu products and also learn more about the heritage and qualities of sparkling wine. The event takes place at the Hotel du Vin in Tunbridge Wells on Friday, October 16. To book call 01892 500265.

Get to the core of Kent's apple history

KENT'S heritage as a fruit-growing county is celebrated with a new updated trail guide, *Apple Source*.

Created by Produced in Kent, the free, fold-out guide includes lots of information about the Garden of England's apple-growing history and takes the reader on a three-mile circular walk from Chilham.

The free guide is available at tourist information centres across Kent and can be downloaded online at www.producedinkent.co.uk.

You won't waist money at new online belt shop

UPDATING your wardrobe for a new season can be expensive, but outfits are transformed by a great new belt.

Many people have been tightening their belts during the recession, but a new fashion website is making the accessories fun again. OnceUponABelt.com stocks many belts which are not available from other sellers and, with prices starting at just £10, there is something to suit everyone's budget.

Visit www.onceuponabelt.com.

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Sat 10th October, 7.30pm

Tickets: £20.00 / £18.50

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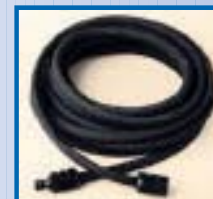
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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

HOLE IN THE WALL BBC1, 5.45pm, Saturday

I COULDN'T quite believe my ears when I heard that Hole in the Wall was returning to our screens for another run.

I'll always remember where I was when I heard the news, just like some people can remember where they were when they heard JFK had been shot.

Yes, I was at home watching telly, wondering how we arrived at this point.

To sum up, HITW is a show so dumb that it gives dumbing down a bad name.

Teams of celebrity non-entities clad themselves in silver skin-tight Lycra suits and stupid coloured bicycle helmets and try to adopt a shape that has been cut out of a giant wall as it approaches them.

If they succeed in forming the shape the wall passes over them to much cheering and whooping, but if they fail they are knocked into a pool of water, to even more whooping and cheering from the audience.

Yes, it's really that stupid and juvenile and the attire leaves little to the imagination.

Why this stupid nonsense has been recommissioned is a mystery to me and someone at the BBC should be fayed in public.

Granted, it's only supposed to be a bit of light fun, but the contestants seem to take it all far too seriously.

They come across as desperate losers who will gladly humiliate themselves if it means appearing on telly to boost their profile in some small way.

Former host Dale Winton has departed and been replaced by Strictly Come Dancing star, and previous series team captain, Anton du Beke, who has the charisma of a bluebottle.



FILLING A GAP: Former team captain Anton du Beke takes over as host of Hole in the Wall

The change is the TV equivalent of swapping a reliable Vauxhall Vectra for a Skoda but Anton looks happy enough to escape wearing the silver suit on a weekly basis and bounces around the set like a village idiot.

If the punishment for failure was more exciting than simply seeing someone toppled into a glorified swimming pool, this would be much more entertaining.

In my dreams the whooping and cheering on Extreme Hole in the Wall would be justified.

Joe Swash's failure to complete a wall would result with him being plunged into a vat of boiling acid, while Vanessa Feltz's misery would be compounded with being knocked into a snake pit filled with king cobras.

Sadly though, that could be a wall too far for Saturday tea time, and that is a real shame.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
GETTING in shape should be your first order of business this week. If you look good physically it will give you the confidence to make your move. If you are single, you'll soon find a lover once you shed those extra pounds. Fortunately, your willpower is at an all-time high.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
BE direct with the object of your affection. Playing cat and mouse games will just annoy them. Fortunately, you've got plenty of sex appeal and will have no trouble catching their eye. If you're in a relationship, you have an opportunity to rekindle the passion that first drew you together.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
KEEP your career plans secret. A high paying job is about to open, and it could be tailor-made for you. The fewer people who know about this opportunity the easier it will be for you to get it. Don't be afraid to press your case for a higher salary than you are initially offered.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
A DESIRE for travel could prompt you to step out of your comfort zone. Fortunately, a friend is happy to tag along on this journey. Although this trip will be enjoyable, you will have to be tough every once in a while. Being an outsider is never easy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
YOUR power packed sex drive prompts you to go for gold and try to net someone sexy. The quickest way into their heart is through their mind. Find out what their hobbies are. Read their favourite books and watch their top films. Take up a sport or activity they enjoy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
A MONEYMAKING opportunity should prompt you into action. The competition will be fierce, but you will emerge as the top candidate. That's because you've got a complex calculating mind. You can process information and come up with analysis that puts everyone to shame.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
IT'S easy to win people to your side, thanks to your winning personality. Making changes to an outmoded system is possible, thanks to your ability to rally the troops. Approach the person in charge with humour. If they feel like they're being attacked they'll dig their heels in big time.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
DON'T be bashful about your passion for a certain subject. Some may accuse you of being a geek, and maybe they're right, but there are worse things to be. Discussing your obsession may encourage others to admit their fascination with the same subject.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
REARRANGING your domestic schedule will make you more productive in every way. Recently, you've taken charge of everything, mostly because you work fast and don't dilly dally. Be brave and delegate duties to relatives and room-mates. Don't fret over the cost.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
NORMALLY you think twice about plunging into new situations, but now you won't be able to stop yourself. Follow your impulses, no matter where they lead. If you lock eyes with someone sexy, be sure to ask for a date. The two of you will form an immediate connection.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
YOU have to be very sneaky about your career ambitions. A high-powered position is opening up, but if people think you are a contender they'll try to undermine your confidence. Be gentle as a dove and wise as a serpent. Gather as much information as you can about the job.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
YOU will be the one who has to make the first move in a relationship. The object of your affection is too shy to approach you. Fortunately, you won't have much trouble striking up a conversation. The two of you have many interests in common, as well as similar ethics.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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EASY

9				1	8		4
8		5			6	7	1
	6		8		3		5
	2		9			3	
	8	6	4		2	9	5
	9			8	4		
			2				3
4	3					1	6
6					7	8	

MEDIUM

			4				1	5
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				9		3	8	
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	2		3			5		7
8	6			4				

HARD

			4	8			7	6
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5			1			6		
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		3			2			5
1					7			
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7	5				6	4		

CRYPTIC CLUES

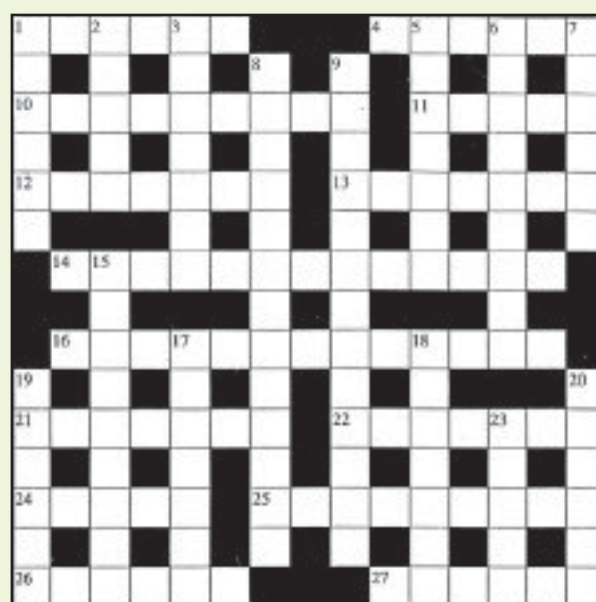
ACROSS

- 1 Distant gambling game played very loudly (3-3)
- 4 Commander takes director to port in Morocco (6)
- 10 Preserve indeed found in lake in Wales, it's a spicy dish (9)
- 11 Outsize vehicle's statuette (5)
- 12 One came from in France inside to world of scholars (7)
- 13 Again adjust one's sight and force US into manoeuvres (7)
- 14 Successful sowers hope to do this eventually (4,3,6)
- 16 Sudden fall of rain (1,3)
- 21 Gold fish first, it is flat on top (7)
- 22 Book I study of law first (7)
- 24 Glacial ridge in The Skerries (5)
- 25 Current father? (9)
- 26 Beating concealment (6)
- 27 Pope troubled by the French (6)

DOWN

- 1 Islander naïf about jibe, not half included (6)
- 2 One of two bachelors leaving cake for dance (5)
- 3 A bursting into flames during outbreak of violence (5-2)
- 5 Quite a number with virtuous fellow we brought up (4,3)
- 6 Goods badly cracked on the turn (4-5)
- 7 Most unusual Sartre novel (6)
- 8 Commit oneself to dive (4,3,6)
- 9 Strange tribal reaction to military bluster (5-8)
- 15 Listener noticed that it had been put on one side (9)
- 17 Band opposing Ronald, revolutionary leader (7)
- 18 Nails, say, for nothing without VAT? (3-4)
- 19 Address for delivery (6)
- 20 Wrong amount ruefully included (6)
- 23 Upset, having got the chop? (3-2)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Tull, English agriculturist (6)
- 4 and Hyde (6)
- 10 Musical note (9)
- 11 Anaesthetic (5)
- 12 In place (anag.) (7)
- 13 In progress (2,5)
- 14 Echidna (5,8)
- 16 Set in one's ways (4-2-3-4)
- 21 Soulful person (7)
- 22 Old-fashioned (7)
- 24 Garishness (5)
- 25 Overtax one's strength (9)
- 26 Oil-carrying vessel (6)
- 27 African fly (6)

DOWN

- 1 Hebrew patriarch (6)
- 2 Sri Lankan language (5)
- 3 Cross the (7)
- 5 Agamemnon's daughter (7)
- 6 Sailors' chant (2-5-2)
- 7 Ruling (anag.) (6)
- 8 Rebirth (1,3)
- 9 State of exalted happiness (7,6)
- 15 Doctor (9)
- 17 Fine rain (7)
- 18 Give evidence (7)
- 19 Meatball (6)
- 20 Water heater (6)
- 23 Pursuit (5)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No106

EASY

6	3	2	7	8	9	5	1	4
4	9	1	8	5	2	8	3	7
8	5	7	1	4	3	2	9	6
9	2	6	8	1	7	3	4	5
5	1	4	9	3	6	7	8	2
3	7	8	4	2	5	9	6	1
2	6	5	3	9	1	4	7	8
7	8	9	2	6	4	1	5	3
1	4	3	5	7	8	6	2	9

MEDIUM

1	9	8	7	2	6	4	3	5
2	7	6	5	4	3	8	1	9
3	5	4	9	8	1	7	2	6
9	8	7	1	3	4	6	5	2
5	1	3	6	7	2	9	8	4
4	6	2	8	5	9	1	7	3
6	3	9	2	1	8	5	4	7
7	2	1	4	9	6	3	5	8
8	4	5	3	6	7	2	9	1

HARD

4	3	2	6	8	9	5	1	7
6	1	9	3	7	5	2	8	4
5	7	8	1	2	4	9	3	6
3	2	5	9	6	7	8	4	1
8	6	1	5	4	3	7	2	9
7	9	4	2	1	8	3	6	5
9	5	6	8	3	1	4	7	2
1	8	7	4	5	2	6	9	3
2	4	3	7	9	6	1	5	8

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No106

ACROSS: 8 Inflexion 9 Leave 10 Clip-joint 11 Gismo 12 Copper-bottomed 15 Afar 17 Tasty 19 Scan 21 Royal enclosure 23 Ashet 24 Breakdown 26 Canoe 27 Charwoman. **DOWN:** 1 En bloc 2 Flypaper 3 Exponent 4 Coin 5 Flighty 6 Balsamic 7 Recording 13 Basic 14 Matriarch 16 Anything 18 Yeomanry 19 Squadron 20 Blitzed 22 Enwrap 25 Ruhr.

QUICK SOLUTION No107

Fagot 20 Kettle 23 Quest 15 Physician 17 Dazzle 18 Witness 19 Luring 8 Reinforcement 9 Seventh heaven 3 Rubicon 5 Electra 6 Yo-heave-ho 7 Taster 27 Taster 28 Antiquity 29 Gift 25 Overexert 26 antea 16 Dyed-in-the-wool 21 Spinny 11 Ether 12 Pelican 13 En train 14 Spiny **ACROSS:** 1 Jetiro 4 Jekyll 10 Semibreve

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- FOOD & DRINK FAYRE under marquees on Victoria Gardens by the bandstand overlooking Viking Bay in the centre of Broadstairs, Friday to Sunday 2nd - 4th October, quality hot & cold food will be available as well as Kentish wine, ales, ciders, & fruit juices
- Afternoon entertainment on the Bandstand

Info@Broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk or see
www.BroadstairsFoodFestival.org.uk

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- Two night stay at the Royal Albion Hotel, Broadstairs.
- Food vouchers worth £100 to be spent with Food for Kent.
- VIP Tour of Thanet Earth for 4 people.
- Jewelry item from Silver Beach Broadstairs.

Visit the food festival website for details on how to enter

Still the nation of gazumpers

■ BY NICK AMES

A STUDY has found that gazumping continues to be a significant issue in the UK property market.

Despite the slow sales that have been such a feature of the property downturn, more than one person in 10 who responded to a question about sales being hijacked at the last minute said they had been a victim of such actions.

And more than one in five said that if the opportunity arose for them to pursue a last-minute sale at the expense of another purchaser, they would do so without taking anyone else's feelings into consideration.

Gazumping happens when someone makes an offer on a property that is agreed to, only for someone to come in at the last minute and make the purchase with a higher offer.

It works because any agreement between buyer and seller is not recognised in law until a contract has been signed.

It is the period between when an offer is made and when a contract is signed that creates room for gazumping, with the original buyer losing out if they will not beat the later offer.

The figures mean home-buyers could be forking out up to £290 million annually in pointless surveys, searches and lawyers' fees when they are gazumped at the last hurdle, according to a new study from leading independent personal finance website Fool.co.uk.



BAD NEWS DAY: Research shows that one in five of us are happy to shatter the dreams of other home-buyers

From a survey of 2,000 of its readers, Fool.co.uk – which was looking at malpractice within the industry – found that 12 per cent had been gazumped over the past year.

More startlingly, 22 per cent revealed they

would attempt to gazump a sale if they could, and the property were desirable enough, with 11 per cent describing it as a “necessary evil”.

Gazumping is especially a problem for first-time buyers, who are unlikely to have the

available capital to match a gazumping bid, especially when more than 10 per cent of the UK property market is now powered by buy-to-let operations with deeper pockets.

According to Alison Hunt at Fool.co.uk, there are some basic steps that a buyer can attempt to make to prevent gazumping:

1. Insist the property is removed from the market.
2. Sell your property before buying another.
3. Exchange contracts as quickly as possible.
4. Maintain a good relationship with the seller.
5. Work with agents on an exclusive basis.

In the meantime, buyers are warned to be aware of the risk of being gazumped, though as house prices stall, and sales volume stalls, property-buyers may be increasingly less likely to suffer from being gazumped.

David Kuo, head of personal finance at Fool.co.uk, said: “For many people, the purchase of a house will probably be the biggest single acquisition they will ever make.

“It can take months of searching to find the ideal home and anything that dashes the dream can be emotionally draining, especially if it is the result of being gazumped.

“But it's not only emotions that get hurt when you are gazumped – finances can take a battering, too.

“Consequently, it is important to minimise the chances of being gazumped, though it is not possible to eliminate the risk completely.

“It is sometimes said that gazumping is the price we pay for free-market competition.”

PROPERTY NEWS

Confidence grows as investors back property

ALMOST half of UK consumers believe that buying property is the best way to invest money.

In a study by Scottish Widows, 48 per cent of those polled said investing in property was the best way to maximise returns on hard-earned cash.

This figure is a significant increase on 12 months ago, when just 28 per cent of those surveyed cited property as the best choice of investment.

Commenting on the results, Jason Butler of Bloomsbury Financial Planning said investors should avoid “backing one horse”, adding that there was no such thing as a “best investment”.

He acknowledged that many investors “want to invest in [property] over and above other investments”.

However, he warned that investors looking to build their property portfolio should proceed with caution because the property market fluctuated depending on the borrowing options available.

Lower deposit boost for FTBs

FIRST-TIME buyers will be happy to learn that mortgage-lenders are now asking for lower deposits.

According to Mortgageforce, the average deposit required in August was 21.25 per cent – down from 25 per cent the previous month.

The move is regarded as a sign that confidence is returning after months of gloom.

Katie Tucker, Mortgageforce technical manager, said: “More generous deals are available – the ongoing stability of house prices reduces the risk of negative equity and reposessions that lenders are keen to avoid, so we should see more accommodating terms.”

However, Ms Tucker also advises borrowers to be clear about the difference between ‘discount’ and ‘tracker’ loans, explaining that discount rates do not follow the base rate.

They are instead linked to bank and building society standard variable rates, which can be changed at the lender's whim.

In related news, prospective buyers should be aware that from January next year, stamp duty will be reintroduced on properties over £125,000.

This time last year, the Government opted to increase the stamp duty threshold from £125,000 to £175,000.

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Property prices rise for 3 consecutive months.

Great news. The market is now showing real signs of a turnaround. Property prices have now risen for the last 3 consecutive months*. This re-energised market is now more active as a result, with over 36% more sales in June than the same time last year**. Rising prices, more buyers and sales on the increase - it's the news sellers have been waiting for.

If you are thinking of selling, talk to **YOUR MOVE** to find out how to make the most of this recovering market.

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* Source: Nationwide June 09
** Source: Agency Express Property Activity Index - June 09

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Ashford OIEO £160,000
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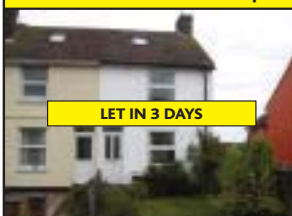
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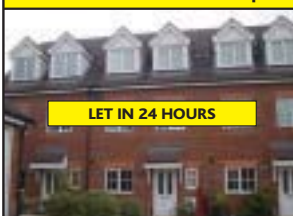
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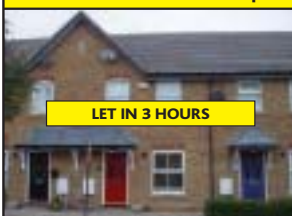
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MOTORS NEWS



Baby Land Rover given the green light to roll

LAND Rover has confirmed it will press the production button on its exciting LRX concept (pictured) – it goes on sale in 2011.

Billed as the “smallest, lightest and most efficient vehicle” LR has ever produced, it will slot in below the current Freelander and is tipped to offer greener technologies including a hybrid powertrain option. It will also guarantee the future of the newly-formed Jaguar Land Rover group's production plant at Halewood, Merseyside.



Hybrids can be fun as Peugeot aims to show

PEUGEOT is not only readying a diesel-electric hybrid for sale, but also pitching the idea that hybrids can be fun.

The type will debut in the French marque's new Nissan Qashqai-bashing 3008, launched initially in conventional mode next month, but the RCZ Coupé hybrid concept spin-off pictured here raises the pulse more than most hybrids.

It has 200bhp from electrically driven rear wheels and a diesel front end, yet averages nearly 80mpg and evades road tax with just 95g/km of CO2 emissions.



Focus wins again – this time as star used buy

BRITAIN'S best-selling motor has also won a major accolade from the influential What Car? Used Car of the Year 2009 awards.

The Ford Focus, in 1.6 Zetec Climate form, took the ‘best small family car’ title for its economy and reputation for reliability. The judging panel said: “There's good head and legroom in the front and back, and room for five people. The boot is a generous size and easy to load; fold down the rear seats and you can move masses of stuff.”



DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION: Launched in 2003, the current 5-Series styling remains controversial, however BMW's big seller handles beautifully and continues to tick the right boxes

BMW star continues to wear badge with pride

FOR years, the BMW 5-Series held pride of place in the management suite. But a new recruit with a familiar name has upset the seating plan.

This upstart is Jaguar's stunning new XF and, all of a sudden, even the big selling BMW 520d – the number one aspirational manager's motor, which outsells all other 5-Series models put together – looks like history... Or does it?

Launched in 2003, current 5-Series styling remains controversial and, while this has helped maintain freshness, previews of a looming replacement suggest a comeback for BMW conservatism.

Whatever you think of the car's looks though, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and summarised by a car loving mate of mine who described his 520d as: “The best bloody company car I've ever had”; this from someone who has enjoyed a succession of six-cylinder Audis and BMWs, including a much missed previous generation 523i.

My overriding impression was the 520d's ability to cope with everything thrown at it thanks to an engine that pulls like a train

ROAD TEST BMW 5-SERIES

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

when needed, while sipping fuel when driven sensibly, all helped by a beautifully weighted six-speed gearbox.

A mid-life facelift added some of BMW's EfficientDynamics technology; energy recovery from braking now tops-up the battery to prevent the alternator sapping engine power.

As usual, official fuel figures are optimistic, but averaging nearly 50mpg is not unreasonable unless you exploit the engine's low-mid range punch and amazing poise for such a big car (0-62mph in 8.3 seconds); balance and economy is helped by all-aluminium bodywork ahead of the windscreen. It will hustle along country lanes making about as much fuss as it does when quietly cruising motorways.

The cabin is spacious and typically well-arranged, if clinical, and now features a more user-friendly sounds/navigation/technology interface than on launch models.

Leather is a £1,340 ‘must have’ extra to an otherwise attractive £27,430 price for an entry level 5-Series that is a long way from petrol 518i ‘poverty spec’ models of past generations, when snobby company car users would ask for the boot badge to be deleted from their order – ‘520d’, on the other hand, may be worn with pride.



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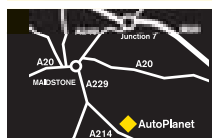


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*Price of £11,320 relates to Cruze 1.6 S model only. Vehicle shown Cruze 1.8 LT and metallic paint available at extra cost of £400. †Customers will receive 3 years road fund licence supplied as a discount on the purchase price of the vehicle at the time of purchase based on the current level of road fund licence. Chevrolet will have no further liability for any future increase in road fund licence: 3 years/30,000 miles Fixed Price Service Package worth £249. The savings are against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 5th October 2009. Prices correct at time of press. At participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with scrappage or any other offers. (Chev80069)

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE SUPERMINIS

carsforkent.co.uk

AS more people downsize their car, fuel and road tax bills, chances are that one or all of the following popular used superminis will be on their shopping list. Year in, year out they are the UK's most consistent best-sellers – a growing trend in the current economic climate. The trio are also excellent all-rounders, but a word of warning: second-hand car prices are robust at present so don't pay more than it would cost to keep your old car longer or trade up to a new car.

FORD FIESTA



FORD'S hugely successful supermini has marched on with a new model launched in late 2008, but don't expect weaker used prices; the credit crunch, rising fuel prices and draconian road taxes have made the Fiesta a top target for its reliability, decent driving experience, engines to suit all pockets and three and five-door body styles. Ford has also regularly produced special and limited editions laden with extra goodies, offering plenty more choice – there's even a hot ST model.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

RENAULT CLIO



DOWNSIZING can be sensible and chic with the Clio and the most recent generations have married durability and driving fun with Gallic charm. Again, the option of three or five doors is a big selling point, but our French contender also has the bonus of excellent diesel versions, though the cost of the actual fuel versus petrol argues against it currently. The Clio design has tended to be highly practical as well as charming, with good space for rear passengers.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL CORSA



VAUXHALL'S Corsa was created to attack the Fiesta, yet has never quite achieved the volumes of its rival. Nevertheless, it offers similar virtues, plus a greater range of engines including a punchy and frugal three-cylinder petrol engine now in greater demand due to these straitened times. Several generations of Corsa followed a 'teardrop' body style, but the latest car is bigger and more aggressively sculpted – almost a 'supersize supermini' – with a sporty VXR version too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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£7
Lineage
p/wk

Lineage
Approx. 20 words

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01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback,
Metallic Red, Full Service
History, 1 Owner, Power
Steering, Elec
Windows, ABS,
30,000 Miles,
01234 567890

£9.50
3x1 Box Ad
p/wk

3x1
Max. 25 words



FORD FOCUS LX 1.6
01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback, Metallic Red, Full Service
1 Owner, Power Steering, Electric Windows
Sunroof, 30,000 Miles. Tel 01234 567890

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Max. 25 words

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC
Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

TEACHER OF SCIENCE

To cover Maternity Leave from November 2009 to June 2010
Main Pay Scale

We require a well-qualified, enthusiastic and innovative teacher of science who is committed to raising the achievement of our students.

Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over-subscribed comprehensive school.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwal@saintgeorgescfe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescfe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 16 October 2009

Brambles Care Home

require an Assistant Manager
32 hours pw

Assisting the manager to lead our staff team to deliver excellent quality care to the homes elderly residents.

Applicants will be self motivated and enthusiastic with exceptional Interpersonal skills and previous experience in a supervisory role within a care setting.

Applicants will hold suitable care qualifications and will possess good levels of IT skills.

The post requires some weekend and on-call working.

For an informal discussion, a job description and application form contact

Kevin or Sheila
Bramble Lane, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5EE
Tel: 01233 813217

Now recruiting...

Supervising Social Worker SOUTH LONDON BASED
Salary range - £28 - £30k (+ Benefits) p/t position

As a qualified Social Worker, ideally with experience in fostering, we want the carers and children in care to benefit from your enthusiasm and creativity. Your commitment will be to improve outcomes for children and young people through the management and development of exceptional foster carers in South London and Surrey.

On top of an excellent salary we offer a range of benefits including 25 days paid leave, the opportunity to 'work from home', career progression and a personal training account. Your role will involve regular travel and participation on the 'on call' duty rota.

Duty & Referrals Co-ordinator KENT BASED
£16k (+ Benefits) f/t position

The successful applicant will have a local authority background as either a Social Work Assistant or residential/education services. You will have significant experience of a fostering environment and be able to demonstrate a good understanding of support to foster carers and young people in care. Contracting and commissioning experience and a marketing/PR qualification would be advantageous.

Your focus will be on good placement matching, professional support and credibly representing FosterCare UK. An ability to understand and manage challenge and risk is essential for this post.

You will have the commercial skill-set necessary to respond flexibly and creatively to duty matters and support the social work team in effectively delivering outstanding services to our young people, foster carers and local authority partners.

Independent Form F Assessors
£1600 per Assessment

We are keen to recruit additional Independent Assessors that can undertake Competency based Form F Assessments across Kent, London, Surrey, Essex and Hertfordshire.

Independent Support Workers/Mentors
Hourly rate payment

Additional Support Workers/Mentors are required to complete a range of duties on a bespoke basis, in particular we are interested in people who have worked on a 1:1 basis with young people, supervised contact and offered driving and escorting services.

Apply now!

0844 800 1941

For an information pack and application form, please telephone or email: enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk quoting the position you are interested in.

We value skills and are committed to the further development of our people to ensure we remain at the forefront of the profession.



Closing date for completed applications is Monday 5th October 2009 • www.fostercareuk.co.uk

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

Staff required for small home in Lordswood, Chatham, to work the following shifts

4pm-8am nights
3 nights first week and 4 nights second week

8am-4pm days

alternative weeks -

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Please ring for an information pack on 01634 579505

SENIOR SCIENCE TECHNICIAN

Pent Valley Technology College:

11-18 mixed 1400 pupils

Salary: Kent Scheme 7 (£20,262 - £23,053 pro-rata)

Term-time plus 10 days (40 weeks)

Hours: 37 hours per week

The successful candidate will be joining a Science Department which is well resourced and has a strong team of Specialist Teachers. The department resources are well-maintained and plentiful, all laboratories having their own smart boards and projectors. We aim to maintain high standards from our students at all times, by leading by example.

Your main responsibilities will include the preparation of practical lessons, record-keeping, ordering supplies, displaying class work, assisting the science teacher during lesson time, and where necessary, to help students with experiments.

You will need to be suitably qualified and particularly able to support the teaching of all Science topics right up to and including AS and A Level.

You should be able to demonstrate an in depth knowledge and understanding of laboratory techniques and previous school experience would be an advantage. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, therefore you will have to provide an Enhanced CRB disclosure for which the employer will pay.

For more information and an application form please contact:

Miss S Spratley,
Pent Valley Technology College
Surrenden Road, Folkestone
Kent CT19 4ED

Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Fax: 01303 279342

Closing Date:
Friday 2nd October 2009

achievement for all

Brambles Care Home
We require a **HOUSEKEEPER**
19.5 hours pw

to join our small team providing cleaning and kitchen support to our elderly residents
Contact Kevin or Sheila for a job description and application form.

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Administrative Manager – Christine Morgan
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Previous applicants need not apply

THE QUEST SCHOOL

We wish to appoint a **qualified teacher** and
teaching assistant to work at our specialist
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Start date – January 2010

**The right candidates will be dynamic
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children's lives essential.**

Please download an application form at:
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Quest School, The Old Stables, Church Farm, Church Rd,
Offham, West Malling, ME19 5NX. Tel: 01732 522700
Email: quest_school@btconnect.com

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Quest School is an equal opportunities employer.

We are committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.

Assistant Manager

**Required For Residential Care Home
In Folkestone**

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic
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Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification,
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Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager)
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PUBLIC NOTICE

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004 APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant
an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the
solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Foster House, Clubbs Lane,
Brookland, Romney Marsh**
Applicant: **Dave Coote**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at
the address below during normal office hours. Any person
may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an
approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the
date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the
address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
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Attention to detail and enthusiasm are important.

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Teacher of GCSE and A Level Mathematics Salary negotiable according to experience and skills

Required for January 2010 a teacher of GCSE and A Level Mathematics. We are
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We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer
of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records
Bureau check.

Closing date for applications - 7th October 2009



THE THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL



(A Foundation Technology College)

Arethusa Rd, Rochester, Kent ME1 2UW Headteacher: Mr P Jackson, BSc

Tel: 01634 844809 Fax: 01634 818385

Email: office@thomasaveling.co.uk Website: www.thomasaveling.co.uk/jobs

2 x Site Services Officers – Facilities and Amenities Lettings

Salary: NJC Scale pro-rata D1 point 7 – Point 16
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**Part-time (18.5 hours per week) including holiday periods,
Hours are envisaged to be:**

Post 1: Friday 4:00pm - 7:00pm; Saturday 9:00am - 5:30pm; Sunday 9:30am - 4:30pm
Post 2: Sunday 9:30am - 4:30pm; Monday-Thursday 4:00pm - 7:00pm.

(Some flexibility of actual working times is required with potential
for future increase of these hours)

The ideal candidates should be self motivated, responsive to demand, capable of
working under pressure and on their own initiative as required. Formal
qualifications in DIY and grounds maintenance are not essential; however,
candidates should be able to demonstrate a practical aptitude for general
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The posts require some clerical administrative undertaking
Primary responsibility of the roles will be to support and assist the activities of the site
team and the on-site lettings during both evenings and weekends.

Please visit www.thomasaveling.co.uk for further details
of the post and an application form.

Closing date for applications: Monday 12th October 2009

*Short-listed candidates only will be contacted for interview which will take place on
Monday 19th October 2009*

The Thomas Aveling School is: - an Equal opportunities Employer

*- committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students and an enhanced
CRB check will be required for all successful applicants.*



CAF Co-ordinator

Starting salary £30,219, with progression through
contribution related pay to £35,734 per annum

Full-time

This is an exciting and innovative opportunity to manage and
further develop the effective coordination of the Kent Common
Assessment Framework (CAF) in Thanet.

You will be working with officers and practitioners across Kent County
Council, schools and Kent Children's Trust Partners Agencies to
ensure these best practice processes established in Thanet.

You will need substantial experience of leadership, management
of change, staff supervision and a high level of political and
organisational skill. Fact and knowledge are pre-requisites along
with a commitment to improving the outcomes for children and
their families. You will be required to monitor and review the
integrated systems and framework to ensure the needs identified
through the CAF process can be addressed. As Thanet will
benefit from children coming to address the high level of need,
you will also be able to develop the process to promote family
addressed through the "Think Family" model.

This post will be based at Clarendon House, Whitstable and will
involve working to travel for meetings.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the
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Alternatively, please email your CV to hr@kentcc.gov.uk
or call 01634 8247 944. Please quote reference number
01/09/24/22.

Closing date: Friday 9th October 2009.

Interviews are expected to take place on the
Mondays of 12th and 19th October 2009.



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WOMEN seeking men

MY EVERYTHING

Ashford based, bubbly and fun single mum, 23yr old, curvy build, brunette. I like reading and socialising. WLTm like minded male. Box 457472 ①

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 ①

NOT YOUR

BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...
Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 ① ②

IS ANYONE OUT THERE?

41yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTm cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931 ① ②

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 ①

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 ①

GOOD LUCK CHARM

Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, Tennis and cycling, WLTm similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712 ①

A FAIRYTALE ENDING!

Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 ① ②

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 ① ②

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 ①

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoying cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447895 ①

SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 ①

STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378 ①

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 ①

SOMETHING LASTING

Professional single mum, 37, own home, looking for a man for friendship, hopefully a permanent relationship. Hailsham Box 455221 ①

BE MINE

Honest and caring woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding. Maidstone. Box 456159 ①

WAITING FOR YOU

Curvy single mum, 38, 5ft7, romantic, loyal, loving and genuine, likes swimming, theatre, live music, dining out, seeking a LTR with a like-minded male. Rochester Box 458866 ①

CALL ME

Happy but shy girl of 37, loves all the normal things in life, seeks a mature guy, hoping for something lasting and meaningful. Bexhill-on-Sea. Box 452424 ①

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 ①

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 ①

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CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 ①

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 ① ②

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 ① ②

JUST ONE QUESTION...

A warm, generous, attractive and caring lady, 40, seeks soulmate who will love, respect and cherish her. What's taking you so long? Box 873456 ①

WANNA RIDE WITH YOU

Curvaceous lady, 40, 5ft8, long curly hair, into motorbikes!! Single mum, seeks fun-loving bike fan for rides into the sunset. Eastbourne. Box 458787 ①

PERFECT MATCH

Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374 ①

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BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900 ①

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?

Shy but confident once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 ①

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE

Single mother, recently separated, 41, 5ft9, slim, blonde/blue eyes, WLTm fun loving man with GSOH, someone honest and genuine. I love cooking, cycling, outdoors. Folkestone. Box 457913 ①

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 ① ②

SMILE!

Looking for a fun-loving guy for a LTR. I'm 41, works as a dental nurse, easy to get on with, always up for fun times. Sittingbourne Box 454827 ①

BELLA ISABEL

Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTm a gent to socialise with. Tunbridge Wells Box 878250 ① ②

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Audrey here, I live in Seaford and WLTm caring man. I'm fun loving, loyal, honest, adventurous and love animals, cooking, music, film, countryside. Box 872159 ①

LET'S DATE!

Hard-working woman, 42, WLTm a nice and caring man to date and be happy with. Herne Bay Box 455327 ①

LOVE IS ALL AROUND

Happy-go-lucky, bubbly blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517 ①

HELLO EVERYONE!

Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTm a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569 ①

ACTIVE TYPE

Lively, energetic fun loving mum, 42, 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair, hazel eyes, WLTm honest, fun, mixed race/black gent for lasting relationship. Box 451819 ① ②

TALL ORDER

Curvy lady, 5ft9, 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes. I live in Deal in Kent, I'm down-to-earth and like being out and about. Box 456020 ①

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY

Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, GSOH, looking for a man with no issues and GSOH who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 ①

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 ①

SWEET AS HONEY

Petite, slim, long-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing. Looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465 ①

LOVE TO MEET YOU

Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy. I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford Box 428464 ①

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE

GSOH, honest, romantic and reliable woman, 45, dark blonde hair/blue eyes. WLTm honest and reliable man 40-55. I like reading, cooking, walks, theatre, animals. Box 457521 ①

STARTING OVER

Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, soaps, the beach. WLTm a honest, non-smoking man for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 873141 ① ②

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693 ①

FROM THIS MOMENT

Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, N/S, affectionate, loyal and caring, looking for a male, 40-45, N/S, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford. Box 454591 ①

HEART AND SOUL

Easy-going single mum, 46, 5ft4, size 12/14, likes bowling, gardening, swimming, looking for a man, 35-49, slim/medium build with similar interests. Maidstone Box 454176 ①

FANCY A DRINK?

Hi, I'm June, 47, bubbly, loving. Looking for a trustworthy guy for a relationship. I enjoy walks, car-boots, travelling and sharing a bottle of red. Box 878294 ①

MY PRINCE?

Not-just-for-xmas dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872961 ①

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 ①

ETERNALLY YOURS

Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build. WLTm genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 ①

SAY YES!

Funny lady, 48, looking for tall/short hippy/biker/metal type to relieve the boredom. Must enjoy cat cuddling and have own chocolate because I never share! Box 878407 ①

A BETTER TOMORROW

Young 50, slim, non-smoker, female, autumn hair. Seeking a companion to make a new start with. I'm in Dover and enjoy countryside, walks, good food/wine. Box 458847 ①

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easy-going single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things. WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 ①

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100 ①

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LOVELY BUBBLY

Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with GSOH to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 ①

FUNNY GIRL

Petite, blonde female, 51, GSOH, likes music, books, films, cooking, looking for romantic soulmate 45-55 for TLC. Kent. Box 835181 ① ②

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old lady in East Sussex, giving a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 ①

MOVING ON

Blonde, blue-eyed solvent female, 54, home/car, young-looking, enjoys travel, dining out, conversation, swimming anything social! Seeking a like-minded man for a loving relationship. Eastbourne. Box 877161 ①

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE

Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming. WLTm similar loving male. Box 443642 ①

TALL & SLIM

Sociable female, 54, tall & slim, short dark hair, green eyes, love gardening, walks, reading, visiting country pubs, dining out. WLTm a like-minded gent. Box 456504 ①

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?

Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 ① ②

GREETINGS!

Carters Lady, 56 seeking special genuine, fun loving gent, 50-60, to enjoy life with and share interests such as walking, cinema, theatre, dining out, holidays. Box 873039 ①

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 ①

DREAMS OF YOU

Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566 ①

NEVER TOO LATE

Hello, I'm Betty, 62, cuddly widow, 5ft5, brown hair/brown eyes, GSOH and love life, seeking a like-minded gent for companionship and more. Box 452329 ①

TIME ON OUR HANDS

Hi I'm Laureen, 62, slim, 5ft2, short brown hair, never act like age! Love Motown, parks, beaches and homey life, seeks fun-loving gent. Tunbridge Wells. Box 458750 ①

LOTS OF TLC TO GIVE

Happy-go-lucky lady, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, likes dancing, walking and holidays abroad, looking for a like-minded male for friendship, maybe a LTR. Box 452897 ①

TALL ORDER

Attractive blonde, 60's, with a young outlook on life, slim build, likes animals, walking, meals, looking for a tall man for friendship, possible LTR. Hastings. Box 456604 ①

Women seeking women

YOU READY FOR THIS?

Tall, blonde lady, 43, 5'7", loves rock music and her dog, looking for a fun lady who has an adventurous side. Gillingham. Box 458471 ①

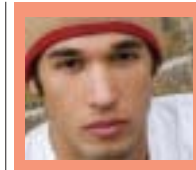
THE SWEETEST THING

Hello there, I'm Heather, 46, kind and caring, looking for a similar soulmate. Seaford Box 454133 ①

NO SECRETS

Genuine, kind, reliable and caring lady, 46, looking for a lady who is exactly as she seems, honest and caring. Box 458390 ①

HOPE YOU'RE OUT THERE?
Sincere female, 49, likes football, animals, country pursuits, seeks feminine woman for friendship, maybe more. Gillingham Box 456805 ①



MEN seeking women

HAPPY CHAPPY

Hi I'm a happy-go-lucky man, 33, a plumber, I enjoy life and everything in it. I'm fit and active and seeking the same in a woman. Box 452394 ①

TABLE FOR 2?

Warm hearted and athletic looking man, 34, 5ft11, dark brown hair, brown eyes, looking for a strong friendship, possibly intimate relationship. Box 871685 ①

LOVE ME TENDER

Fun-loving honest guy, 34, 5ft11, brown hair, seeking honest, caring female for friendship, maybe leading to honest, tender relationship. Eastbourne. Box 446200 ① ②

BOTTLE OF WINE

Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair. I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 ① ②

SOMEONE LIKE YOU

Nice upbeat male, 37, likes horse riding, cycling, social events; seeks similar person to meet for special connection. Tunbridge Wells. Box 458732 ①

DO I ATTRACT YOU?

Happy go lucky single dad, 40, looking for a slim female, -size 12, to share good times and happiness with. Hurlton Box 457738 ①

BROWN EYED MO

Brown-eyed male, 40, likes playing darts, WLTm bubbly, fun to be with lady to go on dates with and get to know better. Dover Box 456129 ①

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS

Loving and caring male, 40, 5ft8, medium build, average looks, seeks outgoing, loving, caring person to find love with. Canterbury. Box 458290 ①



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ROUT: Ashford's one-sided thrashing of Sheppey

RUGBY

Ashford stop rot with first victory

Sheppey 10 Ashford 46

ASHFORD romped to their first Kent 1 win of the season on Saturday when they thrashed Sheppey at The Ditch.

After defeats to Old Olavians and Cranbrook in their opening two games, Ashford finally clicked, routing the Islanders with a performance that lifted them to sixth in the table.

It was an excellent weekend all round for the club, with the seconds beating Canterbury 4ths 36-5 at home.

Danny Bushell scored under the posts to give them an early lead and Duncan Mackay then added a second. Dan Brown ran in the third and with Mackay converting all three, it was 21-0 at the break.

A penalty by Mackay early in the second half extended the lead and Bushell made it 29-0 before Canterbury managed a late consolation, after Dave Ward was yellow-carded for a mistimed tackle.

Mackay then caught his own chip for the final try of the game.

The 3rds won 42-12 away to Deal & Betteshanger, getting off to an ideal start when the opening kick-off failed to travel ten yards, gifting Ashford a penalty that Simon Hall kicked to Andy Kinkead for a try within 30 seconds.

Scrum-half Mike Watson then ran 60 yards to score his first try for Ashford and though Deal hit back, Ashford were ten points clear at the interval after a try from Shaun Woolford.

Watson, Woolford and Richard Bloor scored after the break, with Rob Statham converting twice. When Deal hit back, Woolford and Bloor (twice) re-established the visitors' superiority.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT

glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



DREAM COME TRUE: Leon camier beat his Airwaves Yamaha team-mate James Ellison into second place to clinch the British Superbike 2009 title at Silverstone on Sunday

Camier gets his hands on the championship at last

SUPERBIKES

■ BY FRED ATKINS

IF THERE was ever any doubt Leon Camier would end 2009 as the British Superbike champion, the Ashford rider erased it in the opening race at Silverstone on Sunday, beating his Airwaves Yamaha team-mate James Ellison into second place to clinch the title.

Camier has now won 17 races this season, but the decisive victory in race one was, by his own admission, one of the toughest, as he fought his way up from fifth to take the lead with just one lap to go.

Ellison set the early pace and Camier quickly got past his rivals to move up to second. The gap between the team-mates fluctuated and Camier's anxiety to get past was obvious when, on lap 14, he tried to overtake at Abbey, only for his back wheel to come off the ground.

He repeated his error three laps later, but finally escaped on the penultimate lap at Priory, when he took the inside line, crucially braking later than his team-mate.

"That was one of the hardest races of the season for me," Camier said. "I was pushing so hard and there were some places where I was a bit out of control. I kept trying to make passes, but they weren't working out. Thankfully it all turned out okay in the end, it's an unbelievable feeling to know I've finally done it."

Camier was momentarily at a loss after clinching the title. "I really don't know what to make of it all to be honest, it is such a big moment for me," he said.

"It's a dream come true to become British

Superbike champion. I have to thank everyone who has helped me get here."

Before he could celebrate, Camier had to compete in the second race, though this time his luck temporarily deserted him when he nearly ended up on the gravel, dropping to ninth before eventually fighting his way up to second, passing everyone bar Ellison.

Camier admitted his performance was flawed, but was happy to see his team-mate win.

"I knew I had to get a good start and get to the front and try and get into a rhythm but I made another mistake on the brakes so I have hopefully learnt from it this time around," he said.

"There is certainly room for improvement with some of my overtaking moves as it took time to get by some of the other riders when I rejoined."

"It was great to see James win though and this has been an awesome weekend for the Airwaves Yamaha team and all of our sponsors."

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Town crushed as debut keeper has a nightmare

FOOTBALL

BY YOURASHFORD REPORTER

Corinthian Casuals 5

Carr 15, 45+3, Boosey 31, Sargeant 35, Murray Price 88

Ashford Town 1

Swaissland 68

"OH it's rubbish, bloody rubbish," screamed Brian Clough once in a moment of exasperation – so what he would have made of the Nuts & Bolts capitulation in Tolworth on Saturday is anyone's guess.

The Casuals routed Town by precisely the same scoreline at Homelands back in April, just as the financial crisis that still dogs Ashford was beginning to engulf the club.

There are of course mitigating circumstances, but while the fact that Town boss Steve Lovell had to assemble a squad from scratch with virtually no money counts for something against the likes of Croydon, it means little against Corinthian, an entirely amateur side.

It was a debut to forget for young keeper Darren Ibrahim, who started for the first time due to the knee injury Scott Chalmers-Stevens picked up during Town's win over Whyteleafe.



ERROR: Mitchell Sherwood (right) deserved a penalty but the referee ruled he had been felled outside the box

Ibrahim had to pick the ball out of his net five times, though there was little he could have done about the Casuals' opener, where the defence was culpable, leaving Jamal Carr unmarked for an easy header on 15 minutes.

If Town can look back at one moment and wonder what might have been it came in the 18th-minute, when Mitchell Sherwood was brought down on the edge of the box and the referee awarded a free-kick instead of a penalty.

Otherwise there was little for the away fans to cheer and just past the half hour mark it was 2-0, when Glenn Boosey picked up the ball 40 yards from goal, spotted Ibrahim off his line

Ashford starting XI



Subs used: Smith (Ashmore 45), Briggs (Coleman 65), Sherwood (Swaissland 65)

and took full advantage by lobbing him.

Ten minutes before the break Ibrahim was beaten again, with worrying ease by Kane Sargeant, though there was little he could do about the Casuals' fourth, when Saheed Sankoh set up Carr for a classy finish a minute before the interval.

Lovell replaced Nick Smith with Toby Ashmore at the interval and the Nuts & Bolts did improve after the interval, with Luke Coleman and Kevin Swaissland also coming on after 65 minutes.

The latter grabbed a poacher's goal just three minutes later, sparking a sustained protest from the home side who felt there had been an infringement, but the Casuals still had the final say, when their sub Carlton Murray-Price lost his marker and rolled the fifth past Ibrahim two minutes from time.

The result drops Town back into the Ryman Division One South relegation zone, ahead of Saturday's trip to Merstham.

FOOTBALL



Picture: ICR KIPPO

PRAISE: Paul Jones escaped manager's criticism

Ibrahim shown no mercy by boss after poor display

DARREN Ibrahim will be dropped from Ashford Town's starting line-up for Saturday's trip to Merstham, after a nightmare debut in goal against Corinthian Casuals.

"He's only got himself to blame," manager Steve Lovell told Yourashford after the 5-1 defeat. "I've got no confidence in him and I've got to be fair to the rest of the lads. You give people a chance to perform and if they don't take it it's down to them. He's been waiting for his opportunity, but he was at fault for a couple of their goals and he didn't look fit. That's down to him."

Lovell said Ibrahim could stay with the club, but would have to work hard to convince him he was worth another chance.

"He's a nice lad, but now it's down to him to see if he wants to react or to throw in the towel," he said.

With Scott Chalmers-Stevens definitely out, Lovell must decide whether to enter the transfer market, most likely for a loan signing, or take a chance on reserve goalkeeper Dan Mason.

The manager singled out Paul Jones and John Guest for praise, but admitted his side had "lacked quality in certain areas," at Corinthian, and not just in goal.

Individual errors contributed to a scoreline Lovell felt flattered the home side.

"They went in 4-0 up at half-time, but their manager has absolutely hammered them," he said. "It sounds stupid if you weren't there, but if we'd been rubbish I would have held my hands up and admitted it."

He also felt the referee's decision to award a free-kick instead of a penalty after a foul on Mitchell Sherwood was crucial.

"It was definitely a penalty," he said. "Mitch has been brought down in the box and at the time it was only 1-0. These things change games."

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

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2 Folkestone Invicta	8	5	2	1	+6	17
3 Merstham	9	5	1	3	-1	16
4 Croydon Athletic	7	4	2	1	+15	14
5 Chatham Town	8	4	1	3	-1	13
6 Walton & Hersham	6	3	3	0	+5	12
7 Corinthian-Casuals	8	3	3	2	+4	12
8 Fleet Town	8	3	2	3	+5	11
9 Dulwich Hamlet	8	3	2	3	+1	11
10 Metropolitan Police	8	2	4	2	+2	10
11 Burgess Hill Town	8	3	1	4	-1	10
12 Worthing	6	3	0	3	+1	9
13 Walton Casuals	7	2	3	2	0	9
14 Whyteleafe	8	3	0	5	-1	9
15 Ramsgate	9	2	3	4	-2	9
16 Leatherhead	7	2	2	3	0	8
17 Sittingbourne	6	2	2	2	0	8
18 Eastbourne Town	7	1	3	3	-4	6
19 Horsham YMCA	7	1	3	3	-7	6
20 Whitstable Town	6	2	0	4	-9	6
21 Ashford Town	7	1	2	4	-13	5
22 Chipstead	8	0	4	4	-9	4

FIXTURES Saturday: Ryman Division One South: Merstham v

Ashford Town



CHEQUERED FLAG: Tim Reeves and Patrick Farrance celebrated a double victory at Silverstone at the weekend

Reeves builds on good form with a double win

SIDECARS

TIM Reeves recorded a double win at Silverstone at the weekend, taking the chequered flag in two sidecar races specially held at the Northamptonshire circuit in support of the British Superbike event.

Following a second and first place in the Gold Cup at Scarborough the previous weekend, Ashford-born Reeves went one better this time, holding off a high-class field including John Holden and Andy Winkle, champions of the 2009 Yokohama/ACU/FSRA British F2 series.

The 37-year-old, riding with his partner Patrick Farrance for the LCR-Team Prof Dr Sallmon team, qualified on pole for the first race, setting a time of 1:35.985, more than

two seconds faster than Holden and Wilken, their closest challengers.

The duo then outclassed all their competitors to win the 12-lap first race by fully 12.483 seconds, again ahead of Holden and Wilken of Suzuki/Holden Racing, with Simon Neary and Stu Bond a further second back in third place.

Reeves and Farrance recorded the fastest lap, setting a mark of 1:36.35 at an average of 82.68 mph.

The duo then took race two by a margin of 9.735 seconds, this time ahead of Sean and Mark Hegarty, who pipped Holden and Winkle for third place. Reeves and Farrance again set a fastest lap time of 1:36.34 in the process, at an average speed of 82.19 mph.

Although the event was purely invitational, Reeves was delighted with his display.

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